

PF604583/V6

REES, MORGAN GORONWY. REES,  
MARGARET EWING

**PF604583/V6**

**SEE ALSO LIST INSIDE COVER**

Serial No.	Star Designation	Date	Serial No.	Star Designation	Date	Serial No.	Star Designation	Date
	<del>XXXXXXXXXX</del>							
	K	V	Z	/	4608			
S.1630 Edn.2								

S.1630 Edn.2

PF604583/V6



PF 604,583

FILE CLOSED

VOL. 6.

REES, MORGAN GORONWY.

REES, MARGARET EWING.

See Also

FILE CLOSED

Officer  
or  
Serial No.

Section

Date

Officer  
or  
Serial No.

Date

9 NOV 1970

23 FEB 1971

18 MAR 1971

16 JUN 1971

10/9/71

30/9/71

11 JAN 1972

18 FEB 1972

28/2/72

14 APR 1972

22 MAY 1972

24 JUN 1972

26 SEP 1972

4 OCT 1972

17 NOV 1972

21.11.72

6 DEC 1972

29 MAR 1973

3 AUG 1973

15 AUG 1973

26 NOV 04

14 JAN 1974

25 MAR 1974

3 JUL 1974

31 OCT 1974

5 NOV 1974

26 NOV 72

AUG 1971

161 NOV 9

0 JAN 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

21 NOV 1971

**LIMITED CIRCULATION**

Please refer to S. Form 239 before  
sending this file to another Section.

S Form 238D/2m 10.69

**Y FILE**

**THIS FILE WHEN IN TRANSIT  
MUST BE IN A CLOSED  
ENVELOPE, ADDRESSED PER-  
SONALLY TO THE OFFICER.**

**HELD by R.5**

The file should be passed for P.A. to R.5.

Transit slips in respect of this file should always  
be forwarded to R.5.

PF 604,583

VOL. 6.



Previous volume closed at serial 376a dated 29.5.65

Reference.....

377

2.4.65

Note on Interview with Mr and Mrs REES

377a

378

2.4.65

Note of Interview with Mr and Mrs REES.

378a

379

2.4.65

Ext from T/C

379a

380

12.4.65

Suspension of T/C

380a

381

12.4.65

Ext from T/C

381a

382.

27.4.65.

Ext. from T/C

382a.

384.

29.4.65.

Ext. from T/C

384a.

20.5.65

Ext. from Note on Interview

385.

20.5.65.

Ext. from Interview with FOOTMAN

385y

21.5.65.

Ext. from T/C

385z

385a.

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958

MARCH 2022



386.

28.5.65. To M.P.N.I. re George BARNICK.

387

*8.2.65*  
*12/8*  
D.D.G. through D. through D.I.

The Telephone Check on Morgan Goronwy REES is due for review on 10th June, 1965.

2. We are anxious to maintain the Check on REES mainly in connection with the interviews with David FOOTMAN which are proceeding at the present time. FOOTMAN and REES are close associates and useful information is obtained in this way. I should, therefore, be glad if the Warrant could be revalidated for a further six months.

*E. McBarnet*  
E. McBarnetD.I/Inv.

28th May, 1965.

389.

2.6.65. Ext. from T/C

389a.

390.

~~3.6.65. From M.P.N.I.~~ *Transferred to Folder 21/9m. 8/6/65.*

390a.

391.

8.6.65. Ext. from T/C

391a.

392.

2.6.65. Ext. from T/C

392a.

393.

11.6.65. Ext. from T/C

393a.



Reference.....PF.604,583.....

394.

16.6.65.

Ext. from T/C

394a

395.

21.6.65.

Ext. from Interview rep.

395z

23.6.65.

Suspension of T/C

395a

396.

1.9.65.

Ext. from note on interview

396a

397.

21.10.65.

Cutting from Daily Telegraph

397a

398.

28.10.65.

Ext. from note re interview

398a


399.

Secretariat

The Home Office Warrant TS 2585 on Morgan Goronwy REES is now due for revalidation. I am not applying for this because the Check has been suspended for some months <sup>and</sup> while it is probable that REES will be interviewed again in the context of FOOTMAN, this may not take place until next Spring or Summer. If considered necessary an application for a new Warrant will be made when the time arrives.

D.1./Inv..

2nd December 1965.

  
E. McBarnet

CODE 18-75

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2020



400.

4.2.66. Loose minute.  
22.2.66. Ext. from D.3./PMW interview note  
2.5.66 Extract from report of interview with BLUNT  
401

400a.

400b

400c

25.8.66. From Passport Office.

401a.

402.

30.8.66. To Passport office in reply

402a.

Nov. 67 Ext. from Note for File

403a

404

26.4.68. Ext. from interview report

404a

405

5.12.68 Ext. from interview report

405a

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(1) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958



Reference PF.604,583

406

21.3.69

To Passport Office

406a

408

8.4.69

Ext. from Interview report

408a

409

24.4.69

15.5.69

20.7.71.

Note re Goronwy REES's book on Marks &amp; Spencer

409a

Copy of source report re LIDDELL/BLUNT/REES

409ab

Extract from Interview Report

409b

re REES friend of his brother,

410

29.7.69

To Passport Office

410a

411

29.7.69

Note re passports

411a

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958

OCTOBER 2020



1.8.69.	From Passport Office	412.	412z
29.9.69	Note re discussing the proposed interview with REES.		412a
		413.	
3.10.69	Note re telephoning REES.		413a
		414.	
7.10.69	Note re telephoning REES and arranging an interview.		414a
		415.	
10.10.69	Note of interview with REES.		415a

*K7 17/10*  
*KS Passed to me by K3. I have marked that occurs to me. SP 24/10.*

*Please see note of my interview with REES at 415a. KS may like to mark additional extracting from 415a.*

*Jerry*  
*K7 14/10/69*

THIS IS A COPY  
 ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
 IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
 8(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
 ACT 1958



Reference PF. 604. 583

417

23.10.69.

To Passport Office.

417a

418.

8.6.70.

Ext. from report of interview with David FOOTMAN by K.ADV.  
ment. REES.

418a.

419.

22.9.70.

Note for file

419a

420

25.10.70.

Ext. from "Sunday Times".

420a.

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2020



Original in AF 604,582 Volume 14  
 Serial 7056.  
 Copy for AF 604,583.

SECRET

409/ab

## Part I

Section and Officer of origin...K.7/JED...Report No.....R.P.9/54/69  
 Action copy to.....K.3/BP.....Information copy to.....Typing Date...15.5.69

## REPORT

Guy LIDDELL/Anthony BLUNT/Goronwy REES

On 19th January 1948 BLUNT came to see LIDDELL with a story which had reached him from Goronwy REES via Guy BURGESS. Apparently an M.I.5 officer (later identified as Jim SKARDON) had called on the firm of BENNETT and SHEARS (with which REES was connected) making enquiries about industrial mobilisation in Russia. BLUNT asked LIDDELL to meet REES at his club (Note: Source is not clear whose club this was) on the evening of 19th January to explain the circumstances. LIDDELL met REES as arranged (Note: Source is not clear if BLUNT was also present).

2. On 11th March 1948, LIDDELL had lunch with BLUNT and REES to discuss penicillin. LIDDELL was worried about the Russians having the know-how to make a penicillin plant as this would advance them some two years in the production of bacteriological warfare agents.

WARNING  
 REFER TO APPROPRIATE  
 OFFICER BEFORE USING

## Part II

## COMMENTS BY SECTION OF ORIGIN

Source is WALLFLOWER.

✓  
 12  
 1/1

## Part III

## COMMENTS BY CONSUMER SECTION

(Value, interest, probability, extent to which confirmed by other sources, etc.)

K7/JED

Thank you. Re'd in PF 604,582. There is confirmation of para. 1 at minute 15 in Volume 1 of AF 73525 (BORODIN).



409A

Reference PF 604583

Note

Goronwy REES is the author of the book "St. Michael - History of Marks & Spencer", published by Weidenfeld & Nicholson in 1969. This is a very serious study of the history and development of the firm of Marks & Spencer from a one-man enterprise, founded by Michael Marks (born 1863, Bialystok, in Russian Poland) in the late 19th century, to the vast company it is today. The book is easy to read and interesting, except possibly for some rather technical passages about marketing, accounting, etc.

2. REES gives a list of his sources at the end and these are formidable. It is obviously a work into which he has put a great deal of research. The book is freely illustrated with photographs, including portraits of the following:

Simon Marks, first Lord Marks of Broughton  
Tom Spencer and Mrs. Agnes Spencer  
The original Michael Marks and his wife  
Hannah

Israel Sieff  
Lord Sieff of Brimpton  
Mr. J. Edward Sieff  
The Hon. Marcus Sieff  
Mr. B.W. Goodman

3. Copies of passages of particular interest from the book are attached.

K.3  
24.4.69

B. Palliser

B. Palliser



Xeroxed Extracts from book  
"St. Michael - A History of  
Marks and Spencer" by Goronwy Rees



---

ST MICHAEL

A History of Marks and Spencer

---

Goronwy Rees

Weidenfeld and Nicolson  
5 Winsley Street London W1



### *St Michael*

prices dictated by the market. Under wartime conditions there was no other alternative; but it was a complete reversal of the policy which the company had hitherto followed and to which it would return when it had found its way out of the difficulties created by the war and its aftermath.

The war therefore presented the company with difficult problems; but internally also it was ill-equipped to meet them because, until 1917, there was continuing dissension on the board of directors, and in their disagreements questions of policy as well as personal interests and ambitions played their part. Even when these disagreements had finally, if somewhat drastically, been resolved, the war again intervened, as the new chairman of the company was liable to conscription, so that he had hardly become chairman than he was called up for military service as a signaller in the Royal Artillery.

The war also introduced another extraneous factor, which cannot be ignored because of its intense personal interest to, and influence on, Simon Marks and Israel Sieff. In 1917, the British Government, under the influence of Chaim Weizmann, the head of the Zionist movement in the Allied countries, issued the Balfour Declaration, which announced H.M. Government's intention to establish a Jewish National Home in Palestine.

Such an event might normally be regarded as irrelevant to the affairs of a Penny Bazaar. But the history of Marks and Spencer is in many respects a peculiar and unusual one and not least because of the influence which Zionism, and in particular Weizmann, has had on its development.

Both Simon Marks and Israel Sieff were deeply committed to the cause of Zionism and to the establishment of the Jewish National Home. They were involved in its fate and its future not only by personal faith and idealism but by friendship with, and devotion to, Weizmann himself, and one of the most fascinating elements in the history of the firm is the indirect yet profound influence which Weizmann exercised on it through his two young disciples.

Thus the history of the company during the First World War can conveniently be regarded from three points of view; firstly, from the point of view of the control and management of the company; secondly, of the effects of the war on its development; and thirdly, of the indirect influence on it exercised by Weizmann.

#### *(a) Control and management*

When the war began the direction of the company was in the hands of William Chapman; he had Thomas Spencer and Simon Marks as his



*St Michael*

influence of a man of remarkable genius, Chaim Weizmann, the seeds were sown of policies which were only to bear fruit in later years. This influence was so deep and enduring on the company's chairman, and on his fellow director, Israel Sieff, that it is impossible to ignore it here.

Weizmann was not only remarkable because he was both a great scientist and a great statesman, though this is a remarkable enough combination. He was even more remarkable, perhaps, because his scientific and his political gifts did not exist in isolation from each other but were each reflections of a single very powerful personality. He brought to the tasks of statesmanship the same pragmatic outlook and empirical principles which animated his scientific work and he applied to science the same gift of passionate commitment which allowed him to achieve the immense task of leading his people into a new home in Palestine and of founding the state of Israel. The impact of such a man on two young men who were his friends and disciples could not fail to be profound.

When the British Government issued the Balfour Declaration on 2 November 1917, Weizmann had already gathered around him in Manchester, where he was a Reader in Bio-Chemistry at the University, a group of sympathizers and collaborators in the cause of Zionism. These included C.P. Scott, the editor of the *Manchester Guardian*, and Herbert Sidebotham, then one of the most influential journalists in Britain. They also included Simon Marks, Israel Sieff and Harry Sacher.

Perhaps the best account of their relations with Weizmann is to be found in his own autobiography, *Trial and Error*. It is interesting because it shows that in their approach to Zionism they revealed very much the same spirit of intensely practical idealism which they applied in their own business; it is also interesting because of the light it throws on what kind of young men they were at this time.

Weizmann wrote:

Harry Sacher had returned from London, to become one of the leader writers on the *Manchester Guardian*. Two young business men of great ability and a sense of social responsibility, whom I have already mentioned, Simon Marks and Israel Sieff, had been drawn into the movement. They were not Zionists at first, but they had heard me speak at one of the Manchester meetings, their interest had been aroused, and they wrote to me – this was in 1913 – asking if they might come and see me and discuss the movement with me. From that time on we worked together, in a friendship which has meant much to me and to Zionism. For Zionism became increas-



*War: 1914-18*

ingly the *leitmotif* of their lives, and they brought to it qualities of which we stood greatly in need. They were young and energetic. They were practical, and knew that work could not be done without a budget. They were not hampered by ancient Zionist dissensions, nor were their lives scarred by recollections of persecution. They were jolly and they loved the good things of life. They helped me, in later years, to put some sort of organization into my rather disorganized life. And they were, like Harry Sacher, a great spiritual find. Here were people with whom problems could be discussed, with whom I could check and verify my ideas, and gauge how they would impress others. Not knowing the great difficulties in our way, they were readier for action than I, who was often hesitant and overcautious. In short, they helped to make Manchester, a city to which I had come as a stranger, and had considered a place of exile, a happy place for me.

This is a remarkable tribute by a great scientist and a great statesman to two young men, on the threshold of a great business career, who at the time when they were devoting themselves to the cause of Zionism, were also deeply engaged in the affairs of what had been until recently only a Penny Bazaar. For one of them, Israel Sieff, the commitment to Zionism was for the time being dominant. Between 1917 and 1920 he was for many months absent from England while assisting Weizmann in the affairs of the Palestine Commission. Simon Marks himself was in 1917 seconded from the army in order to establish and direct Weizmann's headquarters in London. As he himself has said: 'One day I was a signaller. The next day I was plunged into the mysteries of diplomacy and found myself representing Weizmann on equal terms with generals and admirals.'

It would be difficult to overestimate the influence which friendship and intimacy with Weizmann had on Simon Marks and Israel Sieff at a most impressionable period of their lives, and through them on the firm of Marks and Spencer. So personal an influence is all-pervasive and not easily defined. But perhaps two elements in it should be emphasized. First of all, friendship with Weizmann acclimatized them in the world of scientific ideas and their application, which Weizmann himself inhabited, and gave them the opportunity to appreciate and understand the empirical and pragmatic basis of his scientific attitude to life; from Weizmann's example also they could learn that science is not an abstraction, but a living and active force which, if applied to the affairs of ordinary men and women, can confer incalculable benefits. Secondly, Weizmann stimulated and strengthened in them that 'sense of social responsibility' which he himself noted in them, so that they came to see in their business a means to creating what is essentially a social service



*St Michael*

responsible for the well-being of the staff in the stores and co-ordinating the welfare services available to them. The new stores which Marks and Spencer built in the thirties were equipped with excellent staff dining-rooms at which meals were served at very low prices in clean and agreeable surroundings. Later, rest rooms were also provided.

The Welfare Department was under the direction of a remarkable woman, Mrs Flora Solomon, whose lifelong devotion to solving social problems was to earn her the OBE in 1946.

In 1934 the firm appointed a consulting medical officer, and a comprehensive medical service was organized. In the following year a dental scheme was initiated.

The services provided under the company's pre-war medical and dental schemes included:

1. medical examination by sessional doctors of every person before engagement;
2. hospital services, which included arrangements with hospitals to admit members of the company at very short notice, free of charge; the company paid a capitation fee of 2/- per head p.a. to the selected hospitals;
3. chiropodist services at reduced rates;
4. optical services by arrangement with opticians to test eyes for 2/6d and to supply spectacles for 7/6d to 18/- per pair; this service was contributory and repayable by weekly instalments of 1/- or more;
5. dental services on the basis of charges made by the National Dental Hospital to the company;
6. sickness supplement to the National Insurance benefits, to the level of full wages for twelve days a year, subject to six months' service; beyond this period grants-in-aid were considered by the Welfare Committee;
7. convalescent homes.

In 1936 two additional welfare schemes were introduced. The first was a pension scheme for senior men in the business; this was later progressively widened and improved, with the company contributing an increasing proportion of the cost, and eventually the scheme became non-contributory. The second was the Marks and Spencer Benevolent Trust, endowed by Lord Marks and the family, which provided retirement benefits for those outside the pension scheme. For those inside the pension scheme the Trust bridged the gap between the



*St Michael*

of trying to persuade manufacturers to produce the goods which their customers demanded at prices which were within their income. This gave their merchandising policy two objectives which they thereafter never ceased to pursue. On the one hand, where goods were available at prices which their customers could meet, they attempted to improve the quality in order to satisfy public standards of taste, which were becoming increasingly more discriminating. On the other, where goods of good quality existed which were outside their price range, they tried, in co-operation with their suppliers, to find ways of reducing costs of production without loss of quality. This meant that in their merchandising policy, the emphasis came to lie with increasing weight on the problem of reducing costs of production in order to be able to provide their customers with goods of high quality and at a price within their income.

Israel Sieff was well equipped to act, as Lord Marks expressed it, as the spearhead of such a policy. His experience had given him a wide knowledge of the textile industry, both at home and abroad, and of what it had to offer the retailer. He also had the kind of gifts, of shrewdness, persistence, patience and the ability to see another's point of view which would have made him an admirable diplomat, and made him a very successful and persuasive negotiator with suppliers and manufacturers who entertained a natural prejudice against ways of business which were novel and untried. Most of all, perhaps, he was strengthened by a conviction, which became even stronger and clearer as the years went by, that the relation between the large-scale retailer and the manufacturer was one, not of conflicting interests, but of partnership and collaboration in the common task of satisfying the needs and tastes of the consumer. In the thirties, Lord Sieff gave public expression to this conception, which even today is hardly an orthodox one, in articles in the press and in broadcasts on the radio; it helped to inspire the support he gave in the thirties to P.E.P. (Political and Economic Planning) which he helped to found, and for him it provided an answer to many of the problems from which British industry as a whole was suffering. In 1926, perhaps, when he first became full-time director of Marks and Spencer, this outlook was more a personal intuition which had to be tested and proved by experience than a fully developed philosophy of retailing.

At that date, Marks and Spencer, like other retailers, still obtained the great bulk of their supplies from the wholesaler, who acted as middle-man between them and the manufacturers; though in fact by



*St Michael*

Weizmann's own researches as a chemist had been of vital importance to the British war effort in 1914-18, and it was partly as a result of this that he had been able to win the sympathies of British statesmen like Lloyd George and Balfour for the Zionist cause of which he was the leader. Both Simon Marks and Israel Sieff had been active in assisting him to advance that cause. There could have been no one better qualified to teach his two disciples the revolutionary possibilities involved for industry in the scientific discoveries that were being made in their own time. One of them, which later was to revolutionize their own business, was made immediately after the First World War, when in 1920 pure fundamental research arrived, as a result of X-ray analysis, at the concept of the chain molecular nature of fibre structure and thus demonstrated in principle that it was possible to create entirely synthetic fibres.

The most striking evidence of the community of ideas that existed between Weizmann and his friends at Marks and Spencer was an event which superficially appears to have little to do with the business of retailing, the foundation of the Daniel Sieff Research Institute at Rehovoth in Israel in 1933. Two years earlier Weizmann had been voted out of office as President of the Zionist Organization; in 1933 he was engaged in research in London, but was anxious to transfer his work to Palestine. He was also deeply concerned with two problems which were of profound importance to the Zionist cause; the need to provide a place of asylum and work in Palestine for the Jewish scientists who were being forced to leave Germany as a result of Hitler's appointment as Reichschancellor, and the problem of finding a means by which scientific research could be applied to the primitive agricultural economy of Palestine.

In the same year, the families of his Manchester friends, the Marks, the Sieffs, the Sachers, were in deep grief and mourning for the sudden death of the seventeen-year-old Daniel Sieff, the son of Israel and Rebecca Sieff, who had already shown scientific promise and had wished to continue his studies in Palestine before going up to Cambridge. Comforting his friends in their bereavement, Weizmann, on an evening walk in Hyde Park with Israel Sieff, his wife Rebecca and her brother Simon Marks, suggested that a research institute at Rehovoth, which would provide a scientific basis for Jewish agriculture in Palestine, would be the most fitting memorial to the young and gifted son of the family.

Lord Sieff has said of their response to the suggestion: 'The talks we



*St Michael*

food accounted for a fifth of the company's turnover. This increase was all the more striking because during the same period the company's total turnover, and especially its sales of textiles, had increased so largely. It is a remarkable reflection of the great changes that took place in the company's range of merchandise during the thirties that on the eve of the war nearly 90% of its turnover was accounted for by textiles and food.

In its effort to improve the quality and uniformity of its goods Marks and Spencer became more and more closely involved in the productive process itself. It was largely an educational process in which a mixture of pressure and persuasion was exercised on suppliers to induce them to improve their manufacturing methods. This might, and did, involve the manufacturer in the expense of installing modern machinery or of introducing new manufacturing techniques; they were willing to do so because the orders placed by Marks and Spencer were on a scale which justified the additional investment. In one sense it could be said that Marks and Spencer assumed the function of teaching the manufacturer the benefits and economies of mass production; but what gave its efforts a very special and individual quality was that in its eyes one of the primary objects of mass production was a continuous improvement in the quality of the finished product.

Such methods involved what might be called a revolution in traditional ideas of retailing. It was a revolution in outlook because it implied that the retailer should assume responsibilities, and discharge functions, which were not normally regarded as his; it was a revolution in method because it required that the retailer should become an active partner in the process of production and this in turn meant creating an entirely novel and unique form of relationship with the manufacturer.

This new relationship changed the function of the supplier and the retailer alike. In Marks and Spencer, for instance, the function of buying became something essentially different from what it is in the normal retail organization. The art of buying normally consists in the skill with which the buyer, out of his experience, knowledge and flair, chooses among the various lines which are offered to him by a variety of competing suppliers, either directly or through a wholesaler. In Marks and Spencer the buyer became a member of a team in which skills as diverse as those of an executive, an accountant, a technician, a merchant and an engineer all played their part. From an administrative point of view, one of the most remarkable aspects of Marks and Spencer was, and is, the success with which they reconciled the demands



### *A Merchandising Revolution*

of large-scale organization with the effective functioning of loosely organized, yet closely integrated groups of this kind.

The conception of large-scale retailing as, in essence, a partnership of ideas, both within the firm, and in its relations with its suppliers, was something which was new in the history of the industry. It had very little to do with the ideas of partnership in industry such as other firms, for instance, John Lewis or Cadbury's, applied during the thirties, or with the kind of impulses and motives which lay behind the growth of the Co-operative movement; except perhaps that it had behind it the same kind of humane and progressive instincts. Its great strength was the belief that, in the realm of industry, genuinely productive ideas required the collaboration of all those who had to put them into practice; together with a rare awareness of how immensely science and technology had multiplied the resources available to mankind if they could be put to practical use, on however modest a scale.

This was not a matter of ideology. It was, on the part of a small number of men who regarded themselves as simply merchants, a rare insight into the conditions under which they had to operate. In their own experience at least Marks and Spencer found that their ideas were justified by results, and in the thirties a large rise in profits corresponded with a reduction in the gross profit margin. In a sense, the textile field provided a laboratory in which they worked out a new philosophy of retailing, and it was this philosophy which, more than anything else perhaps, gave the firm the highly individual character which it has preserved until the present time. Its most fundamental belief, perhaps, was that the manufacturer, the retailer and the consumer were parts of a single and continuous economic process in which each had a common interest.

This was perhaps not a novel or a startling belief; what was remarkable about Marks and Spencer was the consistency and thoroughness with which the company gave it practical application in its own business; the effect was all the more striking because it was coupled with an awareness that, under modern conditions, the economic process was capable of creating benefits for all who shared in it on a scale which would have been inconceivable in any previous age.

Indeed, Marks and Spencer during the thirties presents a spectacle which is fascinating less, perhaps, for what was achieved, though that was considerable, than for the promise it had for the future. For the outlook which the company developed, and tested in practice by hard and strenuous effort, was one which was peculiarly well adapted to the prevailing social and economic trends of the age.



*St Michael*

It could be said that the company had, by a process in which theory and intuition both played their part, come to a correct appreciation of the social and economic conditions under which it operated and that as a result it reaped a very large material reward. Yet an historian would be less than honest if he did not confess to the impression that material reward was not the primary motive of those who were responsible for the company's business. Such an impression carries idealistic overtones which may seem out of place in a commercial history. But to ignore it would be to ignore an important element in the company's success. The strain of social idealism in the objectives which the directors set themselves inspired a rare kind of enthusiasm and devotion in those whom they employed and in those with whom they collaborated; and it also, over the years, won the goodwill and even affection of the public to a degree which became one of the company's greatest assets.



*St Michael*

feed the store staff. The scheme was particularly successful in Kettering, St Albans and Cambridge, and continued until local authorities were able to make proper arrangements for feeding the children in the schools.

In 1940, the Welfare Department, headed by Mrs Flora Solomon, was impressed by the urgency of the problem of feeding the population under wartime conditions and established a restaurant in North Kensington. Here a system of costing, equipping and servicing wartime restaurants was worked out, and it served as a model which was followed by the Ministry of Food in organizing its own British Restaurants. The communal feeding centre in Kensington was destroyed by a direct hit, but further wartime restaurants were established in Kensington, Battersea, Leeds, Leicester, Oxford and Windsor. The company's wartime restaurant in Marylebone was the largest of its kind in the country; it was run by a local committee and again served as a model which was followed by similar restaurants elsewhere. It would be hard to overestimate the value of these forms of assistance given by Marks and Spencer in the task of feeding a wartime community. The significant point was, perhaps, that the company possessed an extremely able and well-trained staff which had been accustomed to adapt themselves quickly and efficiently to new situations and which even in peacetime had a sense that their work was a form of service to the community. It was perhaps natural that, in a time of trouble, others should look to them for help; it was equally natural that they should respond to the need, and the variety of the ways in which they were able to help was remarkable. Canteen experts were lent to the United States armed forces and the American Red Cross to assist in establishing servicemen's clubs; the famous Churchill Club owed much to their efforts. In some cases, members of the staff were transferred to clubs and British Restaurants as a form of national service.

They also lent prompt and efficient aid in emergencies caused by enemy bombing. In the Coventry blitz, in which the company's store was destroyed, they assisted the local authorities in feeding and caring for the homeless. After the very heavy bombing of Southampton, they undertook the feeding of Admiralty dockyard workers. In all cities where a company store was destroyed, the Welfare Department lent its services to the local authorities in giving emergency aid, feeding bomb-clearance workers, providing and fitting new clothing, and in feeding the staff of other businesses damaged by bombing.

During the London blitz, the services of the Welfare Department



*War: 1939-45*

were used to organize feeding in air raid shelters. The first canteen was organized in Seven Sisters Road; later the huge deep shelter in Spitalfields, the largest in the country, was opened, and was serviced mainly by volunteers from Marks and Spencer's staff, who also assisted in welfare work for the bombed and homeless. The Spitalfields centre provided a model which was followed in organizing the feeding in other deep shelters. During the evacuation of Dunkirk, the staff of the stores in Ramsgate and Margate spent each night on the quays assisting the medical services in giving first-aid to the wounded and in assisting the WVS in providing refreshments.

The company showed in many other ways its sense of the need, arising out of the disruption of social and family life by the war, to provide proper feeding and welfare arrangements for those whose normal pattern of living had been destroyed. When the Ministry of Supply organized a hostel for women workers at the Royal Ordnance Factory in Radway Green, 500 volunteers from Marks and Spencer transferred to the hostel and worked there as a group, and catering experts were lent to the Ministry of Food to assist in organizing its canteen. Much assistance was given to the WVS by providing canteen management training for its staff. In the company's own canteens in the stores, dinners were provided at cost price for children of the staff who were of school age, and the rest rooms were opened to wounded soldiers, who were served tea by members of the staff during their own rest periods. Impressed by the shock and suffering inflicted on victims of air raids, Marks and Spencer developed a special variety of canned soup designed to give maximum nourishment in an emergency. This was adopted by the Ministry of Food for serving to bombed-out people in shelters and rest centres.

This account of some of the wartime activities of Marks and Spencer and its staff is a record of service willingly given at a time of national emergency. Those who benefited by it were the same people who bought in Marks and Spencer's stores; and they were the same people who in 1939 produced 94% of the goods which were sold in Marks and Spencer's stores. The company had, and still has, taken great pride in the close ties that existed between it and the public, whether as consumers or producers, and the services which it rendered the public during the war were a recognition of these ties and helped to strengthen them. The company had come to regard its customers as its friends and in the war it may be said that it acted towards them as to friends in dire need.



*St Michael*

To complete the account, it is necessary to include the service performed by members of the staff in the armed forces, and other forms of national service. The company had been early to recognize the dangers of war; indeed, it can be said to have made its own private declaration of war on National Socialism by breaking off all its commercial relations with Germany after Hitler came to power. It had assisted and encouraged members of its staff to join the Territorial Army by releasing them for periods of training at full pay in addition to their normal holiday; when war became imminent, it appointed, in March 1939, a trained engineer to organize air-raid precautions. Already before the war broke out, £20,000 had been spent on civil defence measures, and one quarter of the staff had been trained in civil defence duties.

During the war, the company supplemented the service pay of members of the staff serving in the armed forces, and kept in close touch with them both by correspondence and by issuing a bulletin of the firm's activities and those of members of the staff; equally important, through its Welfare Department it kept in touch with their families and tried to assist them in the many difficulties and problems arising as a result of the war. Marks and Spencer liked to look on itself as a family, and during the war its family spirit was very practically and effectively at work.

By May 1940, out of 2,000 male employees 550 were in the armed forces; by the end of the war the figure had risen to over 1,500. Of women employees, 800 joined the armed forces and other services, while others performed voluntary duties in which their knowledge and experience were employed to assist the war effort at home. Supplementary payments made to members of the staff on war service amounted in the course of the war to £640,000. Of the members of the staff on war service, 37% of the head office staff were commissioned, 60% of store managers, and 56% of men in training. Eighty-nine men were killed in action and fifty-nine became prisoners of war; seventy-seven were awarded decorations and distinctions.

In 1940 the War Office requested the company to form a unit of the RAOC comprised of 225 of its employees; the unit trained together and the members were then posted to different RAOC units. Members of the staff at home made a direct contribution to the war effort by subscribing to the cost of a Spitfire.

The demands of the armed forces caused great difficulties in finding trained staff, especially in a rapidly expanding department like



*War: 1939-45*

catering. Before the war, the company employed some 20,000 men and women. By the middle of 1944 this figure had fallen to 11,500; two years later the figure had risen to 13,600.

Enlistment in the armed forces also meant that the proportion of men to women on the staff also declined sharply; there were less than twenty men (none, of course, young) in training in July 1943 as against nearly 500 in September 1939. And while women took the place of men, they were themselves replaced by girls. The new responsibilities and tasks created by the war had often to be faced by young and inexperienced personnel, who nevertheless displayed a remarkable degree of initiative and ability.

The war also involved a large-scale dispersal of the company's central organization. Plans had been made beforehand, in expectation of heavy enemy bombing, and as early as August 1939, the Invoice and Finance Departments were transferred to Bath. Later, the Food Department was transferred to Bath, buying offices were opened in Manchester and Leicester and a large part of the administration was centred in Blackpool. As a result of the dispersal of the company's central organization, for the greater part of the war only the chairman and a small staff remained at head office in London. In the course of the war, as the danger of enemy air attack diminished some departments returned to London, but it was not until 1946 that the central organization as a whole could be brought there again.

Lord Marks continued to exercise overall direction of the business, but he was largely occupied by his important public appointments. It was characteristic of him that he combined his devotion to Zionism with a deep sense of British patriotism. Before the war, in 1938, he had helped to found the Air Defence Cadet Corps, which became an important source of recruits for the Royal Air Force. During the war, it grew into a force of 250,000 cadets, and in 1941 was taken over by the Air Ministry and renamed the Air Training Corps.

During the war, the chairman served as Deputy Chairman of the London and South Eastern Regional Board, which was responsible for co-ordinating production in the area, and as an adviser to the Ministry of Petroleum Warfare. The Ministry's wartime achievements included the development of the Crocodile flame-throwing tank, the Fido device for clearing fog from airfields, and Pluto, the submarine oil pipeline across the Channel which helped to make possible the Allied invasion of Europe. The chairman was intensely proud of these achievements; indirectly, they had an important influence on Marks and



*St Michael*

Spencer because of the stimulus they gave to his interest in the application of technological advances to industry. He also served as one of the first directors of British Overseas Airways and remained on the board for four years. In 1944 he received a Knighthood in the Birthday Honours.

The vice-chairman equally performed valuable wartime services. Before lease-lend came into operation, and when Britain was in urgent need of dollars to finance her purchases in America, Mr Sieff was invited by the Board of Trade to proceed to the United States with a small mission, with the object of promoting and expanding British exports to the dollar area; as part of this mission he founded in America the Marks and Spencer Import Corporation, which provided the Treasury with 10,000,000 dollars from the sale of British textiles.

In his speech to the British-American Chamber of Commerce in Chicago in 1965, Lord Sieff recalled his wartime experiences as yet another of the opportunities he had enjoyed, like his pre-war visits to America, to study American methods and business practices; and also to make his own contribution to America in wartime. 'In 1942', he said, 'the Chairman of the War Production Board, Mr Donald Nelson, invited me to join the Office of Price Administration in Washington, so that I might convey the experience which we had gained in the first two years of the war in the field of price administration and production control.'

'I accepted the mission and I spent eighteen months in happy comradeship and congeniality with Donald Nelson and Leon Henderson, who welcomed me and cared for me.'

With the chairman and vice-chairman so largely occupied by their wartime duties, an added responsibility fell on Mr J. Edward Sieff and the small staff at head office. The success with which he discharged the very heavy burden of work which fell on him was recognized in 1946 by his appointment as assistant managing director. He was to become vice-chairman and joint managing director in 1963, and deputy chairman in 1965. In 1967 Edward Sieff was appointed chairman in succession to Lord Sieff when he became president.

Responsibility for finance and administration fell largely on Mr Bruce W. Goodman, who had joined the firm in 1932 after qualifying as a chartered accountant; he was appointed chief accountant in 1939 and secretary in 1940. He became a director in 1952 but retained his duties of company secretary until 1963 when he became assistant managing director. He was to become vice-chairman in 1965 and in 1967 joint managing director.



*War: 1939-45*

The work of transferring the head office departments to Blackpool and of organizing a northern head office was supervised by Mr Wilfrid F. Norris, the son of one of the company's earliest employees and shareholders. He also established at head office in Baker Street what is now the Store Operations Department and in 1950 he was appointed a director, having been an alternate director for some time. He was to become assistant managing director in 1963.

For other members of the staff, who were later to play a large part in the company's development, both as executives and directors, the war came as an interruption in their careers. It was not, however, all loss, because of the opportunity it brought for wider and more varied experience in many different fields. It might be said that for the younger members of the staff, the war was part of their training for executive responsibility.

Mr Marcus J. Sieff, the younger son of Israel Sieff, joined the company in 1935, after being educated at Manchester Grammar School and St Paul's and taking an economics degree at Cambridge. He served with distinction in a series of staff appointments in the Middle East and at SHAEF under General Eisenhower. On his return after the war, he was largely responsible for implementing the policy of streamlining store operations and administration of personnel, and for the very rapid post-war expansion of the company's food business. In 1954 he became a director, and assistant managing director in 1963. He was to become vice-chairman in 1965 and joint managing director in 1967.

His brother, Mr Michael D. Sieff brought his experience of textiles to the task of organizing, as a colonel in the R A O C, the supply of clothing to the British Forces overseas. On his return from the war, in 1945, he became chairman of the firm's Textile Co-ordinating Committee and in 1950 a director. He was to become assistant managing director in 1965.

Both sons of Mr Harry Sacher followed their father to New College, Oxford, before joining the company, Mr Michael M. Sacher before the war and Mr Gabriel D. Sacher in 1946; both served overseas during the war and on their return gained experience in the company's food and textile departments. Mr Michael Sacher joined the board in 1954 as an alternate director and in 1967 he was to become assistant managing director. Mr Gabriel Sacher became a full member of the board in 1965, after being an alternate director for four years.

Mr J. A. Lewando, who joined the company in 1929 from Manchester University, served with distinction in the British Ministry of Supply Mission in Washington. He joined the board in 1954, and in 1968 he



*St Michael*

was to be awarded the C.B.E. for services to exports. Another future director, Dr Alec Lerner, came from a different environment, though his family was connected with the textile business. He married Lord Marks' daughter Hannah and joined the firm at the end of the war after serving with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. His experience was to be of great value to the firm in its post-war campaign to establish higher hygienic standards in the handling and distribution of food; he was later concerned with technology. He was to become a director in 1954, and assistant manager director in 1963.

The experience of Marks and Spencer during the war was, like that of most firms, an abnormal one. War destroys all normal relationships and this is as much the case in business as in other fields of activity. In the case of Marks and Spencer, the war interrupted the steady and continuous growth of the business during the inter-war years and held back the possibilities of further expansion and development for which a firm basis had already been laid. It led to expansion in some fields of activity, like catering, which, though for a period they were very successful, diverged from its natural line of development; it also helped to open up possibilities, as in exports, which held great promise for the future. The effects of the war were all the more serious, because they were not confined to the war itself, but continued for some time after, and it was to be several years before the company could pursue policies of its own choice unhampered by restrictions and controls.

But though the war interrupted progress, it was not all loss from the company's point of view. In the first place, it brought out in its staff, under conditions of great difficulty, qualities of resilience and adaptability, and capacities for improvisation and initiative, which are vital to the success of any large organization. It showed that the company's attitude towards problems of administration, which placed more emphasis on a pragmatic and empirical approach than on hard and fast rules of procedure, was one which could survive even the most unexpected tests, and the number of cases in which official bodies adopted methods and procedures which had initially been worked out by Marks and Spencer was striking evidence of their effectiveness.

In another respect the war helped, almost accidentally, to confirm the company in the correctness of the fundamental principles which underlay its merchandising policy. Even before the war, the company had come to recognize that improvements in quality and reductions in price were largely technical problems, which could only be solved by



*St Michael*

theory than applied in practice. At the end of the war, there were very few people at the head of any large commercial organization who accepted that scientific and technological advance was the greatest single factor affecting the success or failure of their business and even today, in Britain, there are few who are wholly committed to such a view as a matter of day-to-day commercial practice.

It is to the credit of Lord Marks and Marks and Spencer that even thirty years ago the company recognized that scientific and technical innovation provided the means by which it could satisfy the demands of its customers. What was even more important, perhaps, was that it had the ability to give to this insight an intensely practical application in its own field of retailing. It was able to do this because, even before the war, it had, by deliberate policy, begun to acquire the experience and to create an organization which would enable it to apply the discoveries of science to the apparently simple task of selling its customers better clothes to wear and better food to eat. Indeed, it had made it the foundation of its ordinary day-to-day commercial policy; it would not be fanciful to interpret the history of Marks and Spencer up to the end of the war as a long preparation for the moment when conditions made it possible to give full scope to the application of a technological approach to merchandising. In this sense, it would be reasonable to claim that since the war Marks and Spencer has been one of the most advanced and progressive organizations in the world, and, as retailers, unique. No doubt there were other reasons which help to account for the great success it achieved in the post-war years, but a grasp of the fundamental importance of technological development would probably be in itself sufficient to account for it.

At the end of the war, however, that success still lay in the future and Marks and Spencer was confronted with the urgent and immediate task of rebuilding its organization after the dislocation caused by the war. On a smaller scale Marks and Spencer was faced with the same problem that faced Britain; it had to re-create its business, on a basis that would enable it to meet the conditions of a new and, at that moment, somewhat discouraging world. As the chairman himself put it: 'In short, as after the First World War, we had to build our business anew'. It was not an easy task. Though the company had adapted itself with considerable success to the difficult conditions created by the war, they had inevitably disrupted and dispersed its organization; moreover, for five years they had frustrated the plans of development which had been drawn up before the war began.



### *St Michael*

catering for its staff, but catering services for customers in stores were steadily run down as textiles became more freely available and pressure grew on store space. Although the last catering units disappeared from stores in 1961, the experience gained in catering deeply influenced the company's approach to hygiene in foodstuffs which characterized the later expansion of its food business. That expansion was directed by Mr Marcus J. Sieff but in organizing and directing the company's hygiene campaign Dr A. Lerner's medical experience proved of particular value.

In 1945, Dr Lerner visited the United States in order to study the health and welfare arrangements of a number of large American firms. In the course of his visit, he was impressed by their awareness of, and concern with, problems of clean food handling, by the consensus of opinion that standards of hygiene were in general too low, and also by the lack of any easily available and co-ordinated body of knowledge on the subject. On his return to England, Dr Lerner reported his impressions to the chairman, who decided that the company must give a lead in Britain in establishing hygienic standards, both as a matter of policy which he considered important to the firm and as an example to others. The company's motto in this field, he said, should be: 'Cleanliness in catering is a measure of efficiency.'

The company engaged in an energetic campaign to improve hygienic standards in its cafeterias; the lessons learnt in the course of it were summarized, in 1949, in a manual, *Hygienic Food Handling*, which was intended primarily for the use of its own staff but which also attracted very wide attention and approval, both by public health authorities and by national and industrial organizations interested in the problems of food hygiene: it was generally recognized as a valuable contribution towards creating higher hygienic standards in all establishments in which food is handled, and Marks and Spencer's experience has become the basis of every authoritative publication concerned with hygienic food handling.

The importance which Lord Marks attached to hygiene is evident from his contribution to the House of Lords Debate on the Molony Report on Consumer Protection in November 1962:

The Annual Report of the Ministry of Health states that during 1961 over 5,000 cases of food poisoning were reported in England and Wales. This does not take into account all those who have suffered from nausea and vomiting owing to bad food and who must run into tens of thousands. It is



*St Michael*

present to millions of men and women an image of a kind which no other great commercial organization has created for itself.

If one were to ask what was particular to that image, what gave Marks and Spencer its unique reputation, one would perhaps come nearest to the truth if one said that millions of people felt that Marks and Spencer's commercial success was the reward of services rendered to the community.

It was a feeling inspired most of all by the quality and value of the goods which Marks and Spencer sold in its stores, especially at a time when quality and value were very hard to come by. In buying Marks and Spencer's merchandise, people came to feel that they were not merely getting value for their money; they came to feel that the goods they bought embodied something, in quality and in use and appearance, which was somehow over and above what their money would buy elsewhere.

There was a further factor at work in producing the image which Marks and Spencer created for itself in the post-war years. During the age of austerity and even in the age that followed, many people had the slightly glum feeling that British industry and British business were in some way behind the times, that they had failed to advance at the rate which the modern world demanded, that by comparison with their overseas competitors they lagged behind in the great trek to progress. Whether such feelings were justified or not is a different question; but they undoubtedly existed, as they still exist. They made people feel dimly uneasy and sapped their self-confidence, and they were reinforced by the repeated exhortations addressed to British industry, by politicians and publicists, to come in out of the cold, to modernize themselves and come to terms with the modern technological world, and also by the recurrent financial crises which seemed to show that Britain was not in fact capable of earning her keep.

In Marks and Spencer, on the other hand, people saw, or thought they saw, a business organization which was palpably and patently efficient by whatever standard it was judged, whether of commercial success, or of the quality and value of its merchandise, or of its effect in raising the standard of living. Such feelings gave rise, in Marks and Spencer's customers, to odd feelings of pride and gratitude which do not often characterize the feelings of a buyer to a seller; to many, Marks and Spencer seemed to shine like a candle in a naughty world, so that it was possible to take an impersonal and perhaps not quite rational satisfaction in the fact of its existence. Moreover, the public came to



*St Michael*

feel that Marks and Spencer had achieved its remarkable degree of efficiency by means which were in no way incompatible with a deep sense of humanity and responsibility towards either its employees or its customers; this was an impression which sprang spontaneously out of the relations between the customer and the sales staff in Marks and Spencer's stores. In an age when the idea of the organization man was becoming both a joke and a menace, it somehow threw no shadow across Marks and Spencer's reputation as a great and highly efficient retailing organization.

To create a public image of this kind would be a remarkable achievement for any business concern. In the case of Marks and Spencer it was all the more remarkable because it rested on a solid basis of fact and owed little or nothing to advertisement. It contributed largely to Marks and Spencer's success in the post-war era because it strengthened and enforced, as it also reflected, the remarkably friendly, even affectionate, relations which subsisted between the company and its millions of customers; as such, it became an immensely valuable commercial asset, of a kind which many large companies would have been glad to create by spending millions of pounds on advertising and public relations.

In its early days as a chain of Penny Bazaars, the company had made use of various forms of advertising, in its own Annual and in the press, and had organized competitions and offered prizes as a means of attracting customers and increasing sales: 'Don't ask the price, it's a penny', had, however, itself been one of the best of all advertising slogans. In the years after the Second World War, the company's use of advertising was minimal, and was largely confined to informative advertising of store extensions and the launching of new lower price campaigns which were a feature of the company's merchandising policy. This was supported by occasional prestige advertising in cinemas, on television and through fashion shows in which Marks and Spencer's sales assistants played a part. Producers of fibres have used the company's stores and garments to promote their interests and Marks and Spencer have co-operated in these joint ventures. Also the company has made use of catalogue promotion for 'back-to-school' features and for Christmas. The informative and colourful 'St Michael News' which is distributed to the staff free of charge was also used from time to time in special publicity. But the best advertisement was in the quality of the goods it sold, in the comfort, cleanliness and amenities of its stores, situated in the most central locations, and in the friendly, helpful and efficient service which its sales staff provided. These factors together



*St Michael*

on advertising and on technical services, had different objects in view. The primary object of the first, advertising, would be to increase sales, though no doubt with the intention that increased turnover would lead to economies in the cost of production. The object of the second was to improve quality and reduce costs, though no doubt with the intention that this would lead to increased sales. The difference between the two attitudes in fact reflects a difference between two entirely opposed philosophies of business.

Despite the adverse economic climate of the immediate post-war years, Marks and Spencer after the war entered on a period of continuous growth. The following figures show its turnover and profit from 1946 to 1955:

<i>Year Ending 31 March</i>	<i>Turnover</i>	<i>Profit Before Tax</i>	<i>Profit After Tax</i>
	£000	£000	£000
1946	19,693	2,052	1,052
1947	26,495	2,576	1,176
1948	34,104	3,170	1,320
1949	44,909	4,193	1,843
1950	52,591	4,651	2,221
1951	65,836	6,082	2,557
1952	75,856	4,996	2,306
1953	86,931	6,741	2,466
1954	94,806	7,867	3,017
1955	108,375	9,268	4,468

But though this was a renewed period of growth the effects of the war are clearly shown by the fact that it was not until 1948 that the figures of turnover exceeded those of the previous peak year of 1941, when they stood at £29,132,000. The effects of the war were even greater, in real terms, if one takes into account the inflationary rise in prices that took place during and after the war.

It was an essential part of Marks and Spencer's policy to combat inflation by increasing its own and its suppliers' efficiency. It conducted a continuous campaign to achieve lower prices, and was so far successful that as late as 1968 most of their garments were sold at less than 100/-; given the quality of the goods and the effect of inflation, this was a remarkable achievement.

In 1948, the chairman, in his annual speech to the shareholders, warned them that trading conditions were changing, so that consumer



### *St Michael*

at Marks and Spencer should provide the basis of a happy, interesting and useful life, should offer the means of dispelling, so far as that is possible, the shadow of fear and insecurity which, until very recently, has hung so heavily over working-class life, and should be founded on staff-management relations which preserve and protect the individual's sense of independence and self-respect.

In part, this attitude can be traced to the almost patriarchal, though not authoritarian, tradition established by the firm's founder, Michael Marks. Michael Marks' humane attitude towards his staff was inherited by his son, who frequently acknowledged that in this respect he took his father as his example. That inheritance was reinforced by the influence of his colleague, Israel Sieff, who had a sharply developed awareness of how deeply, under modern industrial conditions, the worker might suffer from feelings of insecurity and alienation and how severely they might damage both his personal life and his industrial efficiency.

In 1933, the company adopted the practice of an annual review of salaries and wages, in order that the staff might be assured of the prospect of regular increases and increments. In the same year the Welfare Department was created which quickly formulated and applied a welfare programme which at that time was certainly unique in the distributive trade. Good working conditions, however, can easily be taken for granted unless they are continually reviewed, as they have been at Marks and Spencer, throughout the years. Also, good working conditions are no substitute for generous monetary awards.

The company's basic wage scales have been and are today higher than the legal minimum set by the Wages Council. They are also regarded by the company as starting wages only, and not as fixed rates for the job. The actual earnings of the staff grow with service by virtue of the board's generous approach to merit increases over the years. In addition to wage or salary, staff receive a generous annual bonus.

In 1965, the company introduced a five-day week for the staff on a system which provides a number of free Saturdays – a concession which was warmly welcomed by the staff. The official working week was also reduced from 44 hours to 42 hours and, in fact, most staff work considerably fewer hours than this.

The board wish the staff to be able to enjoy a real break from work each year and, in consequence, have provided generous holidays. The company's minimum is 2½ weeks, with an additional 3 days after 3 years' service (3 weeks in all), and a further 3 days after 15 years' service (3½ weeks in all). Supervisory staff have 3½ weeks holiday every



*St Michael*

already acquired a wide experience and knowledge of the textile industry, both at home and abroad; and through his association with Weizmann, he had also obtained experience of a wider world and an insight into the kind of diplomacy which is as necessary in business as it is in political affairs.

In the years that followed he was able to apply these gifts to creating the system of close collaboration with their suppliers which was so important a factor in the company's development. To this task he devoted a patience, tact, and insight into human nature which might indeed have made him a great diplomatist if his bent had not been, like Lord Marks', an eminently practical one. They enabled him to overcome the initial reluctance, in some cases amounting to hostility, of some firms to the idea of becoming suppliers to a company which in their eyes was still tainted by its origins in the Penny Bazaar. Firms with names that were world famous in the textile industry found it difficult to believe that Marks and Spencer wished to improve and not degrade quality and that in creating a mass market they provided the means of doing so. It was largely through the personal contacts established by Lord Sieff and his powers of persuasion, backed by the large orders Marks and Spencer were able to place, that this reluctance was overcome; he was all the more effective as a negotiator because he had a deep insight into the problems of the textile industry, and of British industry in general, and into the conditions that were necessary if they were to function efficiently in a world in which Britain no longer held a monopoly of industrial power.

During the depression of the thirties, Lord Sieff gave forceful expression to his views in a series of broadcasts for the BBC and in articles published in the *Morning Post*, under the title, 'A Policy for Prosperity'. His concept of economic co-operation and planning, outlined in 1933 in a speech at a fund-raising dinner for PEP, of which he was chairman, remains as valid today as it was then, and is perhaps even more necessary. His view was that planning should be concerned with working out steps to secure the adoption of the most suitable methods to increase and improve the production and sale of goods. 'It is a fundamental error in planning', he said 'to begin by establishing the limits of one's objectives.' The programme of modernization for British industry, which he advocated, was on lines which Marks and Spencer had found effective in their own business.

Lord Sieff brought to Marks and Spencer an unusually broad and humanistic view of what the object of business should be. He himself



### *Conclusion*

has expressed it succinctly by saying that the purposes of Marks and Spencer were 'to make a profit and serve the community'; in Lord Sieff's view the two purposes, far from being incompatible, reinforced each other. In this, he and Lord Marks shared an identity of view, but Lord Marks himself liked to emphasize that it was Lord Sieff who sharpened his awareness of the harsh conditions under which industry may condemn men and women to live. It was this feeling which inspired both men to a determination that, so far as possible, Marks and Spencer employees should be relieved of the fears inspired by such conditions and to establish the welfare services which the company instituted in the thirties.

In this one may find an example of the intellectual sympathy between the two men, which was so close that they hardly needed to express their ideas to each other in words. What one felt, the other responded to: 'A kind of extraordinary telepathy existed between us', Lord Sieff has said.

This common outlook was based not only on mutual understanding and temperamental affinities; it was also based on shared experience and a common philosophy which influenced each to arrive independently at the same solution to business problems. One of its fundamental elements was a belief that retailing, and indeed business in general, is essentially concerned with people rather than things and finds its primary justification in the contribution it can make to their well-being and happiness. Lord Sieff has said:

Marks and Spencer started with people. We used to watch old Michael Marks, my father-in-law, giving away half-sovereigns to the needy down at the Working Men's club in Manchester. And we both felt that making people happy was the great thing in life. So, when we got into the stores, we automatically thought on these lines. For instance, we found that the girls were going without lunch when they were broke or busy. Or managing on a jam puff. So we put in lunch rooms and saw to it that they got time off to eat their meal. That sort of thing. From seeing them happy it was just a step to wanting customers to be happy, which meant giving them the best we and they could afford.

And then of course that meant setting standards with our manufacturers and making them happy too. I remember that after we'd been working with a manufacturer for six months, I used to ask for his balance sheet. If he'd lost money on us, we'd sort him out and think about our prices and start again. It doesn't happen now, because we all have too much experience. But the principle is the same. We have the technologists and the designers and the scientists to work on the visions.



### *St Michael*

The history of Marks and Spencer is very largely the story of how these young men's dream was translated into hard commercial practice.

In the interview quoted above, Lord Sieff again emphasized how much the human factor had predominated in their aspirations. 'I hope,' he said, 'my brother-in-law's spirit stays with us for a very long time. Because he infected us with energy. And more important still, with a feeling that as long as you put people—human beings—first, you couldn't go wrong even about making money.'

It may seem a far cry from so idealistic, even naïve, a vision to a chain of 241 stores with a turnover of nearly £300,000,000 a year. In practice, the belief in putting human beings first took the form of a policy directed at achieving the highest attainable standards, in the quality of their merchandise, in their stores, and in their relations with their customers, suppliers and staff. The vision which Lord Marks and Lord Sieff put into practice was one in which the idea of quality was applied to every aspect of the company's business.

This vision transcended the limits of the business and evolved into a general philosophy of enterprise and human relations which was of significance to society as a whole. This philosophy also transcended party political doctrine and this was recognized by the elevation to the peerage of the two men who jointly created this philosophy—Lord Marks on the recommendation of Mr Macmillan, and Lord Sieff of Mr Wilson.

During the illness which preceded Lord Marks' death, a management committee was created consisting of the vice-chairman and joint managing director, Israel Sieff; Mr J. Edward Sieff, who also became vice-chairman and joint managing director; and four newly appointed assistant managing directors, Mr B.W. Goodman, Dr A. Lerner, Mr W.F. Norris and Mr Marcus J. Sieff. Mr S.L. Goldberg succeeded Mr Goodman as company secretary.

At the meeting of directors and executives immediately following the death of Lord Marks, the new chairman, Israel Sieff, said:

We meet today under the shadow of the death of our dear Chairman. We have all read the many wonderful tributes paid to him in the press. Some have almost brought to life his remarkable personality, though most of the writers could have known him only indirectly.

We who worked close to him can fully appreciate his unique qualities: he was our director, our guide and our mentor. He was never alone, always



### *St Michael*

The Chairman has left us the legacy of a great business – the finest retail business in the world. We must do all we can to make it greater.

Following the death of Lord Marks and the succession of Lord Sieff as the chairman, Mr J. Edward Sieff was appointed deputy chairman and joint managing director, and Mr B.W. Goodman and Mr Marcus J. Sieff vice-chairmen and assistant managing directors. Mr Michael D. Sieff joined Dr A. Lerner and Mr W.F. Norris as assistant managing director.

In the chairman's annual statement in 1966, Lord Sieff emphasized the continuity of the principles underlying the growth of Marks and Spencer, which he stated as follows:

1. to offer our customers a selective range of high-quality, well-designed and attractive merchandise at reasonable prices;
2. to encourage our suppliers to use the most modern and efficient techniques of production and quality control dictated by the latest discoveries in science and technology;
3. with the co-operation of our suppliers, to enforce the highest standards of quality control;
4. to plan the expansion of our stores for the better display of a widening range of goods and for the convenience of our customers;
5. to simplify operating procedures so that our business is carried on in the most efficient manner;
6. to foster good human relations with customers, suppliers and staff.

The social philosophy of Marks and Spencer has been stated as follows by Lord Sieff:

The main purpose of building up a great business should not be merely to make money. A company has its responsibilities, not only to the shareholders but also to the staff, the customers and the whole community in which it trades. Unless it gives satisfaction, and even happiness to all concerned, it will fail in its aims in the long run. Unless a company has a continuous record of profits it cannot grow, nor can it do really well any of those things it has set out to do. Long-term success calls for a simple human approach. The means of achieving the aims have to be clearly laid down, understood and accepted by all concerned. It is a paradox of our times that while we are on the brink of great technological and scientific discoveries, the greatest in the history of the world, we are still lagging sadly in human relations.

Lying at the core of our economic problem is a need for a new attitude of mind on the part of the people. To break down the element of fear and



### *St Michael*

In other words, the present economic policy overlooks the potential there is in retailing for improving the quality of British production, for saving foreign exchange by reducing imports of finished goods, for lowering the cost of living and for providing a shop window displaying British goods for the world to see. All these objectives are in the national interest and I am sure that the Government has them at heart.

I would like to emphasize that Marks and Spencer is making its contribution to all these objectives and that our Company is now increasingly considered to be a national institution. Yet, like any other business, we must make profits in order to grow. I strongly believe that a great organization like ours, as well as the system of production and distribution which we have developed, should be of benefit to all those with whom we come into contact, our staff, our suppliers, our customers, and our shareholders.

Yet, he was able to report that:

In spite of these conditions, we have continued our policy of absorbing as far as possible the additional costs involved and in many cases, offered our customers lower prices and better values.

Assisted by our technologists, our suppliers have improved their own organization and systems and have also shown that they can meet the new conditions which have arisen as a result of Government policy, and at the same time make a profit.

He then added:

Our business has the strength and resources to cope with the difficult situations that may arise, as we have done in the past year. This is because over so many years we have been able to establish such good relationships between all those involved in our joint effort.

In 1967, Lord Sieff relinquished the office of chairman at his own request, but agreed to remain on the board and occupy the office of president. Edward Sieff was appointed chairman. He is assisted by the two vice-chairmen, Bruce Goodman and Marcus Sieff, who joined him as joint managing directors, and a strong and active board of directors.

The composition of the board of Marks and Spencer emphasizes certain factors in the company's development which have been active throughout its history. If the influence of Michael Marks is strong, it is because successive generations have reproduced his own remarkable combination of practical ability and idealism, and his whole-hearted devotion to his business. If the 'old school tie' has an influence on its members, it is the tie of Manchester Grammar School, with all that it connotes, rather than that of more ancient establishments of learning.



### *Conclusion*

Of the four brothers-in-law who in the formative years of the public company made up the board of Marks and Spencer, only Lord Sieff remained a director after the death of Lord Marks. Some years earlier Mr Harry Sacher, who had been a director since 1932, retired. Shortly afterwards, Mr Norman Laski, who was one of the original directors, also retired, but continued to be a director of the Marks and Spencer Benevolent Trust until his death. Alongside Edward Sieff, the third generation, grandsons of Michael Marks, took their place on the board, Michael and Marcus Sieff, and Michael and Gabriel Sacher, while the fourth generation are now in the business.

The efforts which Marks and Spencer has made to create genuine ties of affection and loyalty among everyone associated with the business is one of the permanent features of its history. When the company speaks of itself, as it likes to do, as one family which includes all who serve it, it is something more than a figure of speech, and rests on a feeling which pervades all its activities. Its recruitment to the Board extends beyond the bounds of kinship to those within the organization who have been bred in its traditions, tested by its problems and educated in its philosophy.

In his first Annual Statement to shareholders, Mr J. Edward Sieff said:

The year's results show once again the effectiveness of our system of retailing. We believe in private enterprise and that it is possible for our Company, by its known methods, to satisfy its customers, to benefit its suppliers, to look after its staff and at the same time to make adequate profits for the shareholders.

Three years ago, Lord Sieff in the chairman's annual statement said that we were 'witnessing changes in the pace and pattern of our growth'. Since then, we have extended our selling space by 600,000 square feet giving a total of nearly 4,000,000 square feet. While we will continue our policy of enlarging existing stores in traditional locations, which has proved so profitable, we are planning to build new stores in certain peripheral districts of major cities as well as in some of the new towns.

Devaluation has offered us a challenge and fresh opportunities. Our policy of relying on British production has been amply proven and 99 per cent of 'St Michael' clothing is made in this country. A more aggressive approach to substitute imports by British-made products, if taken by British Industry, would be of considerable benefit to the economy of the country.

During the last financial year, our textile sales have increased by £14,703,000 to £201,133,000.

Food sales have continued to expand and turnover this year has reached £76,400,000 as compared with £65,580,000.



408a

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958



407a

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958



CONFIDENTIAL

406a

642

PF.604,583/K3/BJBP

JCW LOC./R/18866

21st March, 1969.

Dear Mr Dixon,

401a Please refer to Mr Wardrop's letter of 24th August, 1966 to Mr J.H. Money about the issue of passport No. 42330 to Mr Morgan Goronwy REES on 24.11.59.

402a 2. We replied to you on 30th August, 1966 saying that we no longer required to be informed about applications for passports for the three persons named in the letter. While this is still true, we are nevertheless now anxious to look again at one or two points in this matter. In this connection we should be most grateful if you could let us have latest passport papers for Mr Morgan Goronwy REES, for his wife Mrs Margaret Ewing REES née MORRIS, and for Mr Herbert Ian WYLLIE.

2622 3. In addition, may we ask you one other thing: in your letter you refer to a letter you wrote to us on 3rd September, 1956, reporting that an earlier passport of Mr REES was found in a telephone kiosk with one of Mr WYLLIE. We realise you may well have no details left of this episode at this late date, but if you should have anything more on record about the circumstances of the discovery we should be very grateful to hear about it.

Yours sincerely,

BP

B. J. B. Palliser.

G. Dixon, Esq., O.B.E.,  
Passport Office.

BJBP/CBE

CONFIDENTIAL



P.A. in: PF 604,583 [redacted]

Original in: PF 864,555 Vol. 2, serial 41a. <sup>28/11</sup>

Dated: 5.12.68.

405a

- (b) Goronwy REES, who was utterly disloyal to his friends. He was undoubtedly a Communist and likely still to be a spy even though he was no longer in the Public Service because he had an uncanny ability to exploit his old contacts. *Also a house agent.*

.....

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 *October 2020*

*10/10*



P.A. in PF 604,583

Original in [redacted] serial 14a

Dated: 26.4.68

Extract from F2/URG Interview Report

Subject: [redacted] University and dates: Oxford 1934-1937.

PF: 864,555. College: Somerville.

Position in Student Movement: [redacted] claims that she was not a member of the Communist Party at Oxford. She was a member of the O.U.L.C. from 1934 to 1937 and she moved in radical circles.

Reliability: The information that we have been able to check, given to us by [redacted] at this and her previous interview, appears to be accurate and reliable. I am confident that when [redacted] gives us information on her own account it is fair, objective and accurate. She herself admits that information given to her by others must be open to question.

Interviewing officer: A.D. Motion. Alias: Nil.

Date: 10th April, 1968. Time: 1415 - 1820.

Place: [redacted]

....

16. Goronwy REES (PF 604,583Y)

[redacted] mentioned that another probably Communist was Goronwy REES. She said she could not classify him as a certainty. She only did this if the persons concerned had themselves told her that they were Communists or someone else, whom she completely trusted, had told her. In this case she cannot remember who it was who had said that REES was a Communist, but she can remember that in 1937 he gatecrashed an after dinner party given by Maurice BOWRA. He was very drunk and when he left, somebody at the party, she cannot remember who, said he was a Communist. [redacted] commented that Goronwy REES and Guy BURGESS were a squalid and sordid pair who fascinated Isaiah BERLIN, who was himself an austere man, and in some way they compensated for his own austerity. I told [redacted] that I understood that there was a group of people who surrounded Isaiah BERLIN at this time - did she know who the others were, apart from REES and BURGESS? Her immediate comment was that Francis GRAHAM-HARRISON was constantly there and would know who the others were. Stuart HAMSHIRE, she said, was a member of the group and Philip TOYNBEE (PF 45,515Y) might have been. She said she had never met, apart from this one occasion, Goronwy REES, nor Guy BURGESS, nor was she herself a member of that circle. She said Rosamund LEHMANN was at Maurice BOWRA's when REES gatecrashed the party and she was certainly "in with" Isaiah BERLIN, but it was [redacted] impression that BERLIN did not have much time for her. [redacted] thought for a bit and then added that perhaps Mary FISHER, the principal of St. Hilda's, and Jenifer FISCHER-WILLIAMS might have been close to it.

...

(signed) A.D. Motion

F2/URG

26.4.68



TOP SECRET

Reference.....

PA in PF.604,583.

Original in PF. 607,230. serial 3a dated November, 1967.

Extract from Record of talk between D3/Mr.Wright, D4/Mr.Courtenay  
Young and Desmond VESEY (1940 & 1946:Employed M.I.5.) at 10.10.a.m.  
on 11.8.67.

.....

Goronwy REES

Desmond met Goronwy REES at the Reform Club once with  
Guy BURGESS. Goronwy was very nasty with him afterwards  
about Guy.

.....

D.3.

November, 1967.

signed. p.p. P.M.Wright.

SP/R5

27.11.67.

TOP SECRET

*Handwritten signature*  
28/11



403 z

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958



CONFIDENTIAL

4024

PF.604583/D.1.Inv/EMcB

JCWLOC./R/18866

30th August, 1966.

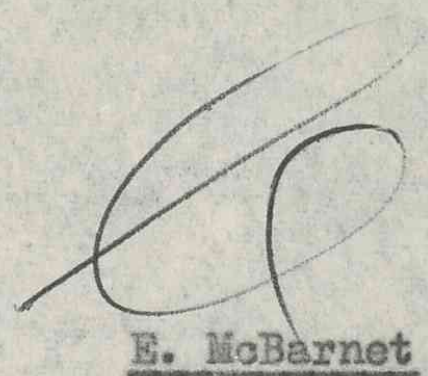
Dear Mr. Wardrop,

Will you please refer to your letter of 24th August, 1966, addressed to Mr. Money which has been passed to me.

2. Thank you very much for sending me the Application for Renewal of Passport forms which I return herewith.

3. I have looked into the reasons for our request, and I can now say that we no longer require to be informed about applications for passports from Goronwy REES, Sir Anthony BLUNT and H.I. WYLLIE.

Yours sincerely,



E. McBarnet

J.C. Wardrop, Esq.,  
Passport Office,  
Clive House,  
Petty France,  
LONDON, S.W.1.  
(2 encls.)

CONFIDENTIAL





25 AUG 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

# PASSPORT OFFICE

FOREIGN OFFICE

Clive House, Petty France, LONDON S.W.1

Telegrams: Telpasof, London, S.W.1

Telephone: ABBey 8010, ext.

Hours of Business:

Monday to Friday

9-30 a.m.—4-30 p.m.

In any reply please quote:

Your reference:

JCW LOC./R/18866

August 24, 1966.

*Dear Mr. Money,*

On November 24, 1959 we issued passport No. 42330 to Mr. Morgan Goronwy Rees. A manuscript slip attached to the application shows that it was sent two days later "for the attention of Mr. Michael Clayton", who returned it with thanks but no further comment.

..... We have to-day renewed the passports of Goronwy Rees and his wife and, blindly following precedent, I enclose the application forms in case they should still be of interest to you. Goronwy Rees' passport showed that he visited Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia in 1964.

For some reason which I have been unable to fathom, the applications of Goronwy Rees, Sir Anthony Blunt and Mr. Herbert Ian Wyllie are all housed in the Burgess/Maclean folder which I inherited from my predecessor. The only item of correspondence that I can find is a copy of a letter of September 3, 1956 from Jasper (then Deputy Chief Passport Officer) to Commander Johnstone, reporting that two earlier passports in the name of Goronwy Rees and Wyllie had been found in a telephone kiosk.

There is no doubt much here that I have no need to know; but I should be grateful if you would say whether you wish us to continue to notify you every time Goronwy Rees, Blunt and Wyllie apply for passport

/services.

J.H. Money, Esq.,  
Box 500.

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

services.

I am copying this letter to Security and  
P.U.S. Departments, Foreign Office.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*J.C. Wardrop.*  
(J.C. WARDROP)

CONFIDENTIAL



Pse 1A in 1966 vol

**TOP SECRET**

Extract from Note for File/Interview Report

F2/ORG/MRS K7/NOT  
3/2/66 8 AUG

400c

Extract for File No. PF 604583 Name REES

Original in File No. PF 604582 Serial 512a Dated 2.5.66

Date and Place of \*Interview/Meeting Interview with Anthony BLUNT at the

with (also give security context of person being interviewed) Courtauld Institute on 27.4.66

Subject The Burgess/Philby circle

Officer P.M. Wright using @ of Section K.3

Extracted by KS Section K.3 Date 4.8.69

.....

5. I told BLUNT that I had three matters that I wanted to raise with him. I explained to him that since I had last seen him nine months ago we had been doing very considerable research into what he had said. It was by no means complete, but there were a number of points that had arisen. I went on to say that I had interviewed a number of people in the BLUNT/BURGESS circle of the last 35 years. I had not disclosed to any of them that BLUNT had confessed and had no intention of doing so. The case of the ROTHSCILDS was entirely different. Victor was a confidant of both Services and he was told about BLUNT at a higher level than myself. BLUNT commented "I suppose it was Dick". I told BLUNT that he need have no fear that the ROTHSCILDS would let him down. Tess was told by Victor, not by me. I went on to say to BLUNT that nobody wanted a scandal. That, so far, people identified as spies in this circle had not suffered the due consequences of the law. For instance, he himself, Leo LONG, John CAIRNCROSS, Brian SIMON and Peter ASTBURY were all still free men. Furthermore, we had offered similar terms to Kim PHILBY but he had not seen fit to accept them. Speaking personally, as long as we knew who was involved and could contain the situation, I thought it was very unlikely that any action would be taken against anybody. However, it was quite clear that

cont'd.....

\*Strike out inapplicable.

S. Form 81C 3m 2.69

**TOP SECRET**10/13  
11/13



TOP SECRET

400c

circle. I went on to cite the example of Guy BURGESS  
telling Goronwy REES that Anthony BLUNT was in it with him.

I did not take this up  
with him because it was such an astonishing statement that  
I wished to check the facts.

TOP SECRET

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2020



400 b.

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958



Reference.....

TOP SECRET

400b

.....

FC4583 Goronwy REES A great friend of BURGESS who admired  
his wife. [redacted] thought him very clever  
but unreliable - did not like him. Not seen  
him since REES was thrown out of the Reform.

.....

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2020



LOOSE MINUTE

✓ Copied to PR.604583

C.2/

attached

I understand that D.1/Inv spoke to you about the vetting enquiry for Daniel Jenkyn REES. I attach herewith a small note about our information on Morgan Goronwy REES, and also attach the duplicate copy of the C.3.D vetting papers. I shall be grateful if you will let me have the vetting papers back in due course.

E. McBarnet

D.1/Inv

4th February, 1966.

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2020.



400a.

AE  
PF604583  
 C.3.D. ACTION SLIP (Desks 2 & 3)

ACTION BY:

Note No Comments

Cancellation

in Schedule

Acceptance VR/CRO

Refusal VR/CRO

✓ Despatch top copy of 301

Destroy top copy of 301

Destroy duplicate 301

 ✓ Duplicate 301 to remain on file held by DI/Mess M<sup>r</sup> Bennett

309 to remain on file

 duplicate  
 Send ~~file~~ to ..... DI/Mess M<sup>r</sup> Bennett

 Officer..... DM ..... Date 2 FEB 1966



CONFIDENTIAL

JUVENILE

DUPLICATE

COMMANDER I.C. MACINTYRE,  
Elliott Brothers (London) Limited,  
Elstree Way,  
BOREHAM WOOD, Herts.

26th January 1966.

964

	Subject	Father	Mother
Surname (a) Now	1. REES	14. REES	20. REES
(b) At birth if different	2. -	15. -	21. not stated
All Forenames	3. Daniel Jenkyn	16. Morgan Goronwy	22. Margaret Ewing
Present Private Address	4. 18c Prince of Wales Terrace, London, W.8. Jan. 65.	17. as at 4.	23. as at 4.
Home Address (if different)	5. -	18. -	24. -
Nationality	6. British	19. British	25. British
Date of Birth	7. 10. 1. 1948	Questions 14-25 have to be answered only when the subject is under 21 or of Foreign Parentage	
Place of Birth	8. Twyford, Hampshire.		
Marital Status	9. Single		
Spouse (a) Forenames (b) Surname at Birth (if different) (c) Nationality at Birth (d) Birthplace if of foreign origin	10. (a) - (b) (c) (d)	26. Subject's Addresses outside U.K. during last three years (not holidays). Give date of entry or re-entry into U.K.	
Employment (a) Present	11. (a) Westminster School, Deans Yard, S.W.1.		
(b) Previous two employers if known	(b) (c)		
		Status or Trade	Dates
		Student	1961 to Dec. 65.

12. Authority to whose Classified Information subject needs access. Indicate which.

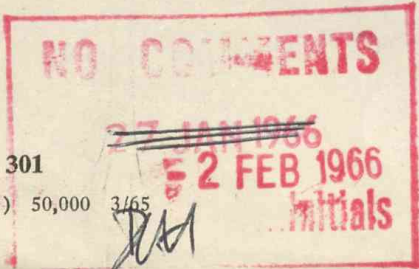
Aviation	Yes	M.O.D. (Navy Dept.)	Yes	M.O.D. (Army Dept.)	No	UKAEA	No	Any other, state which	-
----------	-----	---------------------	-----	---------------------	----	-------	----	------------------------	---

13. The subject now needs to have access to Classified matter while employed as follows:—

Student for possible permanent eventually. To be employed temporarily from February to September 1966.

S. Form 301

(C49777) 50,000 3/65



500/

163281



S. Form 81/rev. 11.62

(306) Wt.11364/7492. 200M. 1/63. K.C.N. Gp.616/1.

**TOP SECRET**

EXTRACT

**GUARD**

398A

Extract for File No.: P.F. 604,583. Name: REES.

Original in File No.: P.F. 606,769. Vol.: Serial: 70a. Receipt Date:

Original from: Note for File. Under Ref: D.3./PMW Dated: 28.10.65.

Extracted on: 29.11.65. by: WA. Section: R.5.

Ext. from D.3./PMW Note for File re

\*If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner.

8. [redacted] said that after BURGESS went, he remembers very well discussing the whole situation with Victor and Tess ROTHSCHILD. They had concluded that PHILBY and FOOTMAN were finished. I queried [redacted] as to why he included FOOTMAN. He said that FOOTMAN's Yugoslav record, together with his close association with BURGESS and PHILBY, plus his Marxist views must surely ditch him. He said that he felt that FOOTMAN must have been involved. He recalled that after the defection Goronwy REES had come to him to ask him to help save FOOTMAN. [redacted] went on to say that REES had told him that BURGESS had recruited him but that he had not done anything. REES said BURGESS was a recruiter for the Russians. [redacted] recalled that he went to a party given by Ian LITTLE, at which REES had held forth at length that Anthony BLUNT had told the Security Service a lot of untruths - BLUNT knew perfectly well what BURGESS had been doing. I asked [redacted] at this point whether he thought BLUNT had been involved. He said he felt sure that he had been; I asked him how strong his conviction was: he said at least 50:50.

D.3. 28.10.65.

**TOP SECRET**

signed P.M. Wright.

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958

October 2020



FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

397 A

Date... 21. 10. 65

Daily Telegraph.***First of the Many***

"AFTER the Ball Was Over" is the unpromising title of a piece on Winston Churchill by Goronwy Rees in the November issue of *Encounter* which is noteworthy as one of the earliest swallows in what will undoubtedly be a long season of reappraisal.

Mr. Rees will not be the first to regret many of the posthumous tributes—he excepts Isaiah Berlin's earlier essay and Lady Violet Bonham Carter's memoirs—as unworthy of the subject and misleading.

***Mistrust of Churchill***

He dwells on the mistrust shown to Churchill during much of his career and his attitude to war.

"Churchill's acceptance of war as the ultimate reality of our time came from a profound and tragic insight into the present. In this he was more modern than any of his contemporaries . . ."

If all that is to come treats the subject as perceptively as Mr. Rees, we shall be spared a lot of bitter controversy.

h.p.  
27/11/65  
D/COK  
22/10/65



TOP SECRET

Dillence 38/91

396A

Reference.....

P.A. in PF. 604,583. REES.

Original in FF. 55,302. vol. 3. ser. 153a.

Extract from D.3./PMW note on interview with [REDACTED]  
 (Contact of Guy Burgess), held in Geneva on 1.9.65.,  
 ment: REES.

.....

Goronwy REES

He was much admired by KESSLER as well as BURGESS.  
 Goronwy REES was often in des air about BURGESS.

.....

D.3.  
 14.9.65.

Signed Peter M. Wright

BK/P.5.  
 11.10.65.

TOP SECRET

Code 18-76

Art's  
 21/10/65  
 Dillence  
 11/10/65

THIS IS A COPY  
 ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
 IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
 ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2020



**SECRET**

M. A. HAWKINS,  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPT., (*through A.3.A.*)  
G.P.O.

Box 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

Please \* ~~Suspend~~  
\* ~~Re-impose~~

Line No.:.....4511.....  
(Not H.O.W. No. or Telephone No.)

\*temporarily from...23.6.65.....to.....inclusive  
(if known)

\*indefinitely (H.O.W. being retained) from.....

Date...23.6.65.....

Section...D.1.....

Signature.....

Miss E. McBarnet

Copy to A.3.A.

Copy to file No.:...PP.604,583.....

(\* Delete as necessary)

(Use this Form for both carbon copies).

S Form 306 rev 4.64/2m 4.64



TOP SECRET

S Form 81B 5m 12.65

## EXTRACT

3952

Extract for File No.: P.F. 604,583 *Held RS* Name: REES  
 Original in File No.: P.F. 604,025 Vol: - Serial: 742 Receipt Date: -  
 Original from: Interview rep. Under Ref: - Dated: 21.6.65.  
 Extracted on: 20.4.66. by: KH Section: R.5.

Ext. from Transcript of Interview between [redacted]  
 (1951:Contact of Guy BURGESS since 1941) and Mr. Peter  
 Wright on 21st June 1965.

.....

W. This is a name we mentioned last time. GORONWY REES.  
 B. Yes

W. Yes. He was extremely Left before the war, wasn't he?

B. No. I wouldn't say extremely, no. I may be wrong but I  
 wouldn't say extremely; I mean he may have been, but if so  
 it was concealed from me. No, I'm sure he was Left-wing in the  
 ordinary sense of the word, and rather explosive in his beliefs,  
 but no, I would never have thought he was someone who would have  
 criticised Socialists as being moderate to me, at the least  
 the slightest inclination. Maybe I'm a bad observer, but I  
 would never have thought he was extremely left-wing, if he  
 was I didn't know it.

W. What I would appreciate with regard to GORONWY is your views  
 on him as an intellectual, what did you think of his ability?

B. I think he's a very clever man, I think he's a very good  
 writer.

W. Yes, an awfully good writer.

B. Yes and very clever, interesting and imaginative and very  
 bright and full of imagination, full of ingenuity and with a  
 great deal of extremely sensitive literary taste. And al-  
 together, I don't say that he's a very good novelist, but still  
 he's a very good writer otherwise. I don't know what else you  
 want me to say.

THIS IS A COPY  
 ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
 IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
 ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2020

TOP SECRET

*Held RS*  
 21.4.66



TOP SECRET

S Form 81B 5m 6 65

3952

## EXTRACT

Extract for File No.:..... Name:.....

Original in File No.:\*..... Vol.:..... Serial:..... Receipt Date:.....

Original from:..... Under Ref.:..... Dated:.....

Extracted on:..... by:..... Section:.....

- W. That's fine. I just wanted your assessment of him as a .....
- B. Yes, well I think highly of him - as a writer of course and he's quite a good political observer and reviewer of books on the social and political subjects in the "Spectator".
- W. I thought some of his reviews are absolutely first class.
- B. Very good, yes, excellent journalist, excellent literary journalist and quite a good political journalist. Altogether a very gifted person who's rather lost his way.
- W. Very good at making enemies isn't he?
- B. Yes, very good indeed. And one who'd get drunk. I mean now of course, but even before the war there was a certain liability to drink too much, and he rows.
- W. Yes.
- B. He was always quarrelsome in his cups. Funny I never did think of him as extremely left-wing, no. I don't think I ever thought of anyone as that perhaps, in those days.

Laughter.

.....

\*If the original is in the file of an individual  
include the name of the file owner



S. Form 81/rev. 11.62

**SECRET**

(306) Wt.11364/7492. 200M. 1/63. K.C.N. Gp.616/1.

**EXTRACT**

Extract for File No.: PF.604.583 Name: REES

Original File No.: PF.604.583 Supp. A. Vol.: 10 Serial: 608 Receipt Date: 16.6.65.

Original from: T/C Under Ref.: 4511 Dated: 15.6.65.

Extracted on: 18.6.65. by: CMK Section: D.1/Inv.

Ext. from T/C on Western 1316 - Coronwy REES - former contact of  
BURGESS

.....

O/G REES to ENCOUNTER - MEL LASKI.  
 MEL had only just received the article and had not read it yet. He asked how REES was. Not very well. Everything was frightful - he was in great trouble over money. He wondered if MEL could do for him what he had done once before, give him an advance.  
 MEL asked how much, and when? Would later in the week do? REES said to-day would be better. He really was in a most terrible jam at the moment. Last time, MEL had advanced £150.  
 MEL said he would put this in the post to-day.  
 REES was very, very grateful, and said, in german - 'like HITLER to MUSSOLINI' that he would never forget this kind action!  
 15.12.

.....

**SECRET**
 11/15  
 20/6/65  
 18/6/65

 If the original is in the file of an individual  
 include the name of the file owner.



S. Form 81/rev. 11.62

(306) Wt.11364/7492. 200M. 1/63. K.C.N. Gp.616/1.

## EXTRACT

Extra for File No.: PF.604,583 Name: REES

Original in File No.:\* PF.604,583 Supp.A. Vol.: 10 Serial: 604 Receipt Date: 11.6.65.

Original from: T/C Under Ref.: 4511 Dated: 10.6.65.

Extracted on: 14.6.65. by: CMK Section: D.1/Inv.

Ext. from T/C on Western 1316 - Goronwy REES - former  
contact of BURGESS

I/C for MRS. REES from the WEST LONDON COUNTY COURT.  
 REES answered. DISTANT said he had a summons from C & J  
 CARPETS. He had tried to deliver it but REES's bell was  
 out of order. (It had been burnt out!) Having ascertained  
 that the REES'S did live at this address, DISTANT said he  
 would post the summons. How much was it for, asked REES?  
 For £124.  
 10.36.

\*If the original is in the file of an individual  
 include the name of the file owner.



**SECRET**

S. Form 81B 8m 3.64

## EXTRACT

Extract for File No.: PF.604,583 Name: REES

Original in File No.: PF.604,583 Supp. A. Vol.: 10 Serial: 602 Receipt Date: 9.6.65.

Original from: T/C Under Ref.: 4511 Dated: 8.6.65.

Extracted on: 10.6.65. by: CMK Section: D.1/Inv.

Ext. from T/C on Western 1316 - Goronwy REES - former  
contact of BURGESS.

O/G REES to DAVID HIAM.

DISTANT was not in yet. REES spoke to a secretary and explained that he had signed an agreement last week, and had been promised a cheque immediately. This had not arrived.

DISTANT was to be asked to ring REES when he came in to the office.

09.58.

I/C for REES from JACQUELINE CORNE.

She said the cheque had not yet come in from WEIDENFELDS. She would ring NICHOLAS THOMPSON about it now. It usually did take a few days, she explained.

REES said it was extremely urgent and causing him great inconvenience. He asked to be rung back on this.

10.19.

I/C for REES from JACQUELINE CORNE.

She told him that WEIDENFELDS would be letting them have the cheque by THURSDAY at the latest. If REES would like it, HIAM would write a letter to his Bank Manager with this information.

REES said he would like this, and would HIAM also enclose a copy of the contract. He gave the name of the Bank - the WESTMINSTER - HARLEY STREET BRANCH.

11.15.

O/G REES to the WESTMINSTER BANK - MR. GODRICH.

DISTANT was engaged with a customer and was to ring back. (REES sounded very exasperated this morning!)

11.22.

I/C for REES from GODRICH.

After the usual formalities:

REES

I got your letter this morning. I am sorry about that cheque. I've been expecting it. I spoke to my agent this morning who has spoken to the publisher, who says I shall have it on THURSDAY at the latest, and my agent is writing to you to-day to say this, and is also enclosing a copy of the contract.

GODRICH

And this is the £500 you will telling me about.

R.

Yes, it is.

G.

Yes, I understand that, but the idea was that that was going to be in reduction of your existing overdraft.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF.

**SECRET**



**SECRET**

NAME: REES, Goronwy.

Line No.: 4511.

Tel. No.: WESTERN 1316.

Date: 8.6.65.  
TUESDAY  
CONTINUED.

Responsible Section: D.1.

9 JUN 1965

I/C for REES from GODRICH continued.  
Continuing about REES's overdraft.

- REES Well it will be a reduction of the overdraft, but I had to pay that cheque because otherwise, I would literally have had the bailiffs in from the Rating Authority.
- G. I don't know whether the Bank will permit me to pay this cheque or not, MR. REES. Your overdraft is a great deal higher than it should be.
- R. Even with £450 coming in on THURSDAY.
- G. Yes.
- R. Well, then if they won't do that, can you to-day sell me £200 of shares?
- G. Well, we could, MR. REES -
- R. Well look, I really must pay this cheque. It is intolerable to be told that you can't pay this cheque. and I am really going to be put into the hands of the bailiffs!
- G. MR. REES, you can't tell me that it is intolerable of the Bank not to allow you to do this.
- R. Well, you must tell me whether they will or they won't you know, or else I must do something else.
- G. Of course I will tell you MR. REES. I am only making the point-(there was alot of noise on the line at this point for which GODRICH apologised, saying he did not know where it was coming from.) I am only making the point that if you sell the shares, that reduces the Bank's security, and that should again go in reduction of yo r present overdraft and not provide money to cover -
- R. No, but MR. GODRICH, I have told you that I am perfectly willing to sell all these shares to reduce my overdraft - I know it reduces your security but you have really quite alot of security for me. You really have got quite alot of security.
- G. But not, unfortunately, enough.
- R. You know, you have really put a very low limit on the security that you have taken on the house, as we agreed.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF.



**SECRET**

NAME: REES, Goronwy.

Line No.: 4511.

Tel. No.: WESTERN 1316.

Date: 8.6.65.  
TUESDAY  
CONTINUED.

Responsible Section: D.I.

9 JUN 1965

I/C for REES from MR. GODRICH continued.  
Continuing about REES's overdraft.

- GODRICH Yes, as you know, I admit that, and it maybe that we can increase that a bit and that I can look in to. (More noise on the line for which GODRICH apologised!) But you really cannot continue to draw money on your Account without any sort of agreement with the Bank, MR. REES. This whole overdraft has been borne without the Bank's agreement right from start to finish, and I have been extremely lenient with you, but there has to be a limit to this.
- REES Yes.
- G. You do understand that MR. REES, surely.
- R. I do understand that, of course I understand that, I have done my best to reduce it, and again, I am asking you which you would prefer me to do. As it is, I am simply left in the air. I don't know what I'm supposed to do. Am I supposed to sell the shares? Would you rather have those, or not. And if you refuse to pay this cheque, or even refuse to let me sell £200 worth rather than pay it, I mean -
- G. Yes, that doesn't really - my point is that the selling of the shares ought to be in reduction of your existing overdraft.
- R. Well, it will be a reduction of my existing overdraft.
- G. Yes, but not if you go on continuing - I mean if we -
- R. I mean, if you know you say I can ~~XXX~~ sell the shares I reduce the overdraft very considerably.
- G. Yes, indeed it will.
- R. And that £500 will reduce it very considerably.
- G. Let me get the picture clear about this £500. This you have now been promised by THURSDAY?
- R. THURSDAY at the latest.
- G. Yes, I see. All right, well let me get on to my Head Office and see what they say about this, MR. REES, will you?
- R. Yes. (He could hardly speak!)
- G. And I'll get back to you later on. Right, thank you.
- 11.46.



**SECRET**

NAME: REES, Goronwy.

Line No.: 4511.

Tel. No.: WESTERN 1316.

Date: 8.6.65.

Responsible Section: D.1.

TUESDAY  
CONTINUED.

9 JUN 1965

O/G MARGY to the ROYAL INSURANCE GROUP. FIRE DEPARTMENT. MARGY was ringing about a fire there had been downstairs in the building on SATURDAY NIGHT - 'quite a big fire.' MARGY said they were covered with 'that horrible brown sort of stuff and soot all over everywhere.' Where the fireman had tramped through, it was filthy and the whole place stank. MARGY wished to know how to claim. She was to be rung back.  
12.23.

I/C for MARGY from the LIVERPOOL, LONDON & GLOBE INSURANCE. MARGY gave details of the building. The house was divided into 3 flats. The REES's had the top 2 floors. A MR. COOLEY (ph) had the middle floors, and somebody called BECKETT had the basement and ground floor. The BECKETTS had had a fairly bad fire on SATURDAY NIGHT. The REES's flat had not suffered, except that it was now filthy from smoke and everything smelt. MARGY was told that she could go ahead and get the walls in the hall washed down and the carpets and curtains cleaned, and DISTANT would settle the account.  
14.10.

O/G MARGY to DOORSTEPS at SLO 9244. DISTANT was to send somebody along to estimate for the cleaning, to-morrow.  
15.00.

All calls between 15.20 and 19.00 were lost, owing to a faulty tape.

O/G MARGY and REES to PINKY BECKETT. This was a very long conversation about the fire which had been caused by the BECKETTS' unbelievably dreadful cousins, also called BECKETT, who lived on the ground floor and basement of this building. They were always drunk and MARTIN and PINKY had insisted that the REES's never had anything to do with them! MARGY and REES had been forced to give them and their daughter beds on SATURDAY night, and could not believe that such awful people existed! PINKY was full of apologies for their relations!  
19.46.

I/C from DEE. Domestic chatter. From the conversation, it appeared that REES had really lost his temper with DEE last time they met. MARGY said he was very low and depressed, but had been amazingly efficient on SATURDAY night.  
20.32.

L.C.



**SECRET**

S. Form 81B 5m 10.64

## EXTRACT

Extract for File No.: PF.604.583 Name: REES

Original in File No.:\* PF.604.583 Supp. A Vol.: 10 Serial: 601 Receipt Date: 8.6.65

Original from: T/C Under Ref: 4511 Dated: 3.6.65

Extracted on: 9.6.65 by: CMK Section: D.1/Inv.

Ext. from T/C on Western 1316 - Goronwy REES,  
former contact of BURGESS

I/C for MARGY from PEGGY REES.

PEGGY wondered how they were. She mentioned that she was stoney broke at the moment and could not move!

MARGY replied: 'We are in the same position, but it seems to be sortable out - a long and dreary period - we've taken a violent action to cure it, I mean, sort of working everything out, which I must say, is very frightening.

Domestic chatter followed. MARGY spoke about the boys - the accident, and DANIEL's treatment at the TAVISTOCK CLINIC. The doctor there thought that 'what happened to DANIEL started in ABERYSTWYTH, in fact, he's quite sure, and it is not surprising really because there was a terrible lot of misery going on, and at one point, REES had to go to the SENATE and tell them to leave the children alone, and there were alot of other ghastly things. REES was rather attached to - you know - that lady at that time and I think I was in a pretty bad way.'

PEGGY knew nothing about that at all.

MARGY said that was very bad, in fact, it was almost fatal, and surprisingly enough, she had totally forgotten it, deliberately. It was 'very, very, bad!' The children had also been pursued by newspaper men asking them questions.

MARGY said she had to go to the TAVISTOCK once a week to be interviewed by the social worker there. She had to tell the family history and they tried to help you out of any difficulties that you were in. MARGY explained that in lots of cases, it was the home that was splitting up, and under such circumstances, there was not much point in trying to cure the child.

DANIEL did not know that MARGY visited the clinic too.

MARGY said REES was 'blooming.' MARKS & SPENCER might be going to publish the book, which would be wonderful.

REES had signed the contracts for the other two books. In fact, things seemed to be alot better.

MARGY invited PEGGY and GERAINT to supper to-morrow, or after the holiday. She mentioned that they were doing nothing at WHITSUN.

PEGGY to ring again.

11.53.

**SECRET**



S. Form 81/rev. 11.62

SECRET

(306) Wt.11364/7492. 200M. 1/63. K.C.N. Gp.616/1.

## EXTRACT

Extract for File No.:.....P.F.604,583.....Name :.....REES.....

Original in File No.:\*.....P.F.604,583..Supp.A..... Vol.:10.....Serial:598.....Receipt Date:2.6.65.....

Original from:.....T/C.....Under Ref.:.....4511.....Dated:1.6.65.....

Extracted on:.....3.6.65.....by :.....CMK.....Section :D.1/Inv.....

Ext. from T/C on Western 1316 - Goronwy REES former contact  
of BURGESS

.....

I/C for MARGY from LUCY.  
 MARGY was already in bed, to-morrow being the early  
 morning (for DANIEL's coaching.)  
 Lengthy domestic chatter. MARGY said they would be  
 going up to YORKSHIRE for Whit weekend.  
 22.45.

SECRET

\*If the original is in the file of an individual  
 include the name of the file owner.



388a.

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958.



S. Form 81B 5m 10.64

## EXTRACT

Extract for File No.: PF.604.583 Name: REES  
 Original in File No.:\* PF.604.589 Supp. Vol.: 4 Serial: 373a Receipt Date: 21.5.65.  
 Original from: T/C Under Ref.: 4357 Dated: 21.5.65.  
 Extracted on: 24.5.65. by: CMK Section: D.1/Inv.

Ext. from T/C on FRO 2712 - FLANAGAN re REES

*FOOTMAN? See 3852*  
 Outgoing call FLANAGAN to GORONWY, WES 1316. The conversation went as follows-

- F. Are you all right?
- G. Yes, fine, thank you, and you?
- F. Ehm - I'm bearing up.  
 Ehm - I was thinking it would be rather nice if you and MARGY would have a quiet dinner with me sometime? Er - I've - you might be amused to hear - I've had a chat with the friends that had a chat with you!
- G. Of what?
- F. Ehm - you know, you were telling me - er - two friends came and had a talk - er -
- G. Oh yes.
- F. Ehm - they've had a talk with me too.
- G. Have they? - I had a feeling they might!
- F. Er - yes.
- G. (slight laugh)
- F. (slight laugh) So, that - ehm - well, it would be nice if - er -
- G. Why don't you come here?
- F. Well, I always seem to be coming to you.
- G. Oh - indeed not!

FLANAGAN, after discussion about possible days, suggested Thursday the 27th. GORONWY said this would do fine. FLANAGAN added that -

- F. That's Ascension Day.
- G. Very suitable! (laughs).

FLANAGAN would turn up soon after 7. o'clock probably with his 'little partner'.  
 10.46.

\*If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

SECRET



TOP SECRET  
Extract for PF.604,583 - REES 3852

Original in PF.604,589 - FOOTMAN

Extract from Transcription of Recording of Interview between  
P. M. Wright/D.3. and David FOOTMAN on 20th May 1965.

.....

W. GORONWY REES?

F. (laughs)

W. Have you - while we're on the subject of GORONWY -  
as you know GORONWY said that he was recruited by GUY ?-

F. Yes, yes -

W. - and gave it up in '39 - but, apparently, the friendship  
with GUY went on until the end -

F. Yes.

W. - do you think - some of the things that we find  
surprising is GORONWY's apparent almost pre-cognition  
about GUY's departure, I mean, this conversation of  
MARGY's on the telephone-

F. yes.

W. - and MARGY - MARGY, quite clearly, did not interpret it  
at the time as meaning that GUY had gone to Russia, but  
GORONWY immediately interpreted it as that.

F. Yes - I don't know that, you see, I wouldn't know  
whether GORONWY had ever told MARGY of what happened  
in '36 - '37 - when he-

W. -Ehm - you see, GORONWY - in the way GORONWY put the  
case - was that he decided that - that the whole thing  
had come to an end, that it might have been one of GUY's  
fancies - the whole business of working for the  
Commintern and that sort of business and, in fact, he  
assumed that as GUY was muddled up with M.I.5. [redacted]  
and so on that everything was all right. Have you  
any indication that GUY said anything to GORONWY after  
he came back from America and before he went - in the  
three weeks - and that would make GORONWY think this,  
because GORONWY, I mean -

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 MARCH 2022

TOP SECRET

/over

4/6/65



D.F.  
Interrogation

TOP SECRET

3852

- 18 -

- F. GORONWY was then at Sonning, wasn't he?
- W. Yes.
- F. I think it's probably - to go back to GORONWY and GUY, you see, there were very long gaps in their seeing each other after the Nazi-Soviet pact because GUY joined the Territorial Regiment - GORONWY, I mean, joined the Territorial Regiment and he probably saw very little of GUY for the next - and, I'm trying to remember how frequently they - how frequently they did meet. As I say, GORONWY as a Major - he was then - on MONTY's staff turned up at this party given in MARSHAM COURT by old ROBERT SMITH, I don't think I saw him again until he was demobilized - I did hear something about him from GUY, I did hear from GUY that he'd fixed up with HENRY YORK - now, I don't know whether or not GUY ever met HENRY YORK - HENRY would write novels under the name of HENRY GREEN - and, he told me that GORONWY had got himself into ~~XXXXXXXX~~ PONTIFEX & SONS - because, the next time I met GORONWY he was already established in St. JOHN's WOOD in Cavendish Avenue just after the war. I imagine, and I'm pretty certain, GUY was seeing more of him than I was - you see, I'm really quite a new-comer into their approaches. I hadn't realised it was as short a time as three weeks from his return from America and his disappearance! - and I-
- M. It was about three weeks.
- W. You see, we know that GUY when he landed in this country was met by ANTHONY BLUNT and, after he'd seen ANTHONY BLUNT, the next thing he did was to go down to Sonning and see GORONWY REES, and GORONWY then - I mean, one wonders - when one realises that GUY was in a panic at that time, because he'd got to get DONALD MacLEAN out - whether he asked GORONWY for help and whether GORONWY knew.

TOP SECRET

/over



D.F.  
Interrogation

- 19 -

3852

- F. You see - ..... I didn't know that he was already in a panic at that time.
- W. He came back in a panic. But, you have no evidence - put it like this, that GORONWY knew beforehand that GUY was going?
- F. No, no evidence at all, I don't think - I don't think I saw GORONWY during those - those three weeks, you see. At that time when he was in Sonning I saw them fairly rarely because I was busy in London and it was rather a business getting out and still more getting back - I hadn't got a car. Ehm - no, I think, my first contact with the REESes after GUY's return was that telephone call to me [REDACTED]
- M. Do you think that GORONWY thought that GUY had given up his work for the Comintern, or, however GUY described it? (pause)
- F. You see, it was a very, very long time ago that he told me this business about GUY telling him that he was working for the Comintern and pulling out a wad of old one pound notes - ehm - he - ehm - I think the impression left in my mind after what he told me is that he thought GUY had given up.
- M. When did he tell you first?
- F. It was after the balloon had gone up - after GUY had disappeared but before he - it became - he appeared again in Moscow - it was during the time when they were missing.
- W. It must have been pretty soon after-
- F. It was, I think, quite soon after it, because, ehm - there ehm - you see, ~~xxx~~ was that, but how many days I don't know - I think - he came along to my flat in Bruton St. one evening after he'd been talking to somebody [REDACTED]

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 MARCH 2022

/OVER



TOP SECRET

D.F.  
Interrogation

- 20 -

- M. And, then he came along to tell you the same thing?
- F. Ehm - yes, then, this story of the Comintern came up for the first time to my knowledge.
- M. And, he told you the whole thing - how he'd been recruited and how he had broken off?
- F. No - not in that detail, no, I don't think he - I think, the way he put it, he said that he thought at that time it was a good thing, and then - then, after the- then, it certainly wasn't. Ehm - he was very, very worked up at the time on that occasion, very, very, and he was - I mean, all that- he was extremely shaken by the whole thing - and <sup>he</sup> ~~XX~~ went on and on, you see. And-
- M. Did he say then whether MARGY knew about it?
- F. He didn't mention MARGY, no, in that connection.
- M. He first met MARGY in what?-
- W. '40.
- M. 1940?
- F. He was stationed near Liverpool, you see, and met her ~~casually~~ like that, and, MARGY is a strong minded girl, determined to marry him, and - many amusing family stories about her taking her father's car and the amount of petrol she used and the very, very difficult <sup>for</sup> times/- he was an underwriter in the London-Liverpool Insurance - to get petrol - and all that sort of thing.
- W. You know GORONWY very well - not to put too fine a point on it, do you think that he is telling the truth when he says that he gave it up in 1939?
- F. Ehm - I think, yes - I think so. Ehm - you see, there are one or two things, of course, he's got - as I say, he's got this curious Welsh home sickness for the extreme ~~X~~ Left, which I pull his leg about. For instance, he, very shortly after his demobilisation, he made one or two - he wrote one or two articles and, I remember, it was the - I believe the first time it was ever suggested in the English Press that the Soviet/intention /over



TOP SECRET

D.F.  
Interrogation

- 21 -

intention was to turn East Germany into a Soviet republic - into an associated Soviet republic, and when, we knew that was the Russian intention but it was certainly not the Russian intention to publicise the fact, and it fits in entirely with our young man WOLFGANG LERNHART, whom we had at St. ANTHONY's, and was there, as a party functioner, in East Berlin at the time. You see, that would - ehm - I should say that that would be an unforgivable sin for anybody closely connected with the party machine.

M. Ehm. Well, if he hadn't.....

then, he would have been capable of deceiving MARGY?

F. Well, I should say, MARGY <sup>was</sup> ~~the~~ the only person who really knows him and probably the only person in whom he's got absolute a hundred per cent trust.

W. Do you think that if MARGY knew that he'd gone on after 1939 she would tell us?

F. I'm-almost certainly not - I think her loyalty to him would be absolutely over every possible other -

W. I would have said it's like that -

F. Yes. Ehm - of course, I have been struck, you see, at the enormous impression - the lasting impression - the deep impression that all this has made on GORONWY, I mean, that is, you see - something happens and then for most people, for myself, you see, something happens and then you digest it and then you get rid of it and then it's completely dead and gone - with GORONWY it still is - er -

M. Yes.

F. And, of course, there was a sort of psychological necessity for GORONWY to write that - what I think from the literary point of view - brilliant little sketch of GUY. Of course, it wasn't very long after that that he went to Aberystwyth and, as you know, he had

TOP SECRET

/over



D.F.  
Interrogation

TOP SECRET

- 22 -

he had such appalling troubles in Aberystwyth, quite apart from the- they used his People articles as one of the weapons to try and get him out, but, there, he got involved right in the middle of real proper Welsh nastiness and intrigue and so on.

M. Do you mean that there were factors other than the articles which caused this?

F. Ehm - I'm not, I'm afraid, thinking very logically, you see, I felt that - how my mind <sup>was</sup> ~~XX~~ working - that it - I think, he'd written the articles in order to get something out of his system as a relief. Now, the question of publishing the article is another matter and he certainly published it with the People because he was then in need of ~~XXXX~~ money, there was a big family with an expensive education coming along, and, his agent waved a big cheque at him, you see, from the People and he said-'yes'- and said -'well, of course I must see if they edit it at all, I must approve what actually goes in' - and, the answer was, of course, everything was edited before ~~before~~ ....

and then, a little time afterwards - this is what he told me, you see, he was at a conference in Bangor and a trunk call came through from London on a very bad line and he was called out of the conference - it was the People reading out their script, you see, so - inaudibly - he was tired and bored and he was unhappy and there was this £2500 cheque I think in the background, and so, he said-'go ahead'. When it actually came out and he saw what they'd produced, then, I think he was appalled at the - well, at the vulgarity of it really rather than the other-

M. Yes, but, I thought you were saying that you felt that his troubles at Aberystwyth might have been due to other facts than the People articles?

TOP SECRET

/over



D.F.  
Interrogation

TOP SECRET  
- 23 -

F. Ehm - oh yes, they were!

M. They were?

F. Oh yes, very, very much so - I mean, all the campaign against him - and, the real trouble was - he was far too liberal and far too modern for the powerful group there that wanted Aberystwyth to be run in Welsh with Methodist prayers in Welsh, you see, after every lecture and all that sort of thing.

M. I see, so, - and the article was only -

W. A lever to get him out.

F. They just jumped at the article - the ..... when that came up - that was just one thing more, but, I mean, absurd stories going round, I mean, that he was a homosexual, I mean - and, Aberystwyth itself - that was split in to two camps, a passionate devotion to him and passionate hostility - and, it got such a mess and it was so unhappy for MARGY he gave up the battle, you see, before the end - he might have, if he'd stayed on and fought he might have stayed, but, but he gave it up. He was low and in a bad - in an unhappy state - low morale and low - er -

M. Yes. Do you feel that he is a sort of victim of circumstance or - or, indeed, a victim of malice?

F. Oh - he <sup>felt</sup> ~~thought~~ that Aberystwyth was a- yes - victim of malice. Ehm -

W. Do you think that he feels that he suffered because of the People articles apart from Aberystwyth?

F. Well, ehm - naturally, they didn't like it in Oxford at all in All Souls - ISALAH, of course, was quite <sup>is</sup> horrified, and ISALAH ~~was~~ extremely sensitive about that particular passage in his career, and, ISALAH's friends rather laugh at - he's always maintaining that he's a physical coward but very brave morally and the friends say - 'well, he's extremely brave physically and .....

(laughter)

/over

TOP SECRET



TOP SECRET

D.F.  
Interrogation

- 24 -

and ..... - and, all this struck him on a very, very sore point and it took a long time for GORONWY to get forgiven by his Oxford friends and by his colleagues.

M. Yes, but this was the vulgarity, do you mean?

F. The vulgarity and having brought all this out - having shed things that might identify ISAIAH, you see, and identified all sorts of other people and having done it for money.

M. Was there any strong feeling that - I mean the man he was really identifying, I suppose, was ANTHONY BLUNT?

F. Well, Oxford didn't bother about-

M. They didn't?

F. - no - they didn't know ANTHONY well - only one or two knew him, but, I don't think they bothered about that.

M. Well, your view is - not only that GORONWY did give it up as he said he did - but, that he believed that GUY had too?

F. That was the impression I've always held and ~~XXXXX~~ I have no evidence of the other way.

M. Yes. And, presumably, if he thought that GUY had given it up, he must have thought that BLUNT had given it up?

F. That who had given-?  
ANTHONY

M. /BLUNT - I mean, if he believed that BLUNT had been involved, as he did believe it, and was able to sit through the war knowing that ANTHONY BLUNT .....

F. Ehm - yes, I -

M. I mean, the only charitable view to take is that he thought that ANTHONY too had give it up.

F. Yes, but I imagine that he thought, you see, that ANTHONY let the <sup>claims</sup> ~~XXXXX~~ of friendship override the claims of duty by - by some extent shielding GUY right at the end either tipping GUY off or shielding him.

TOP SECRET

/over



D.F.  
Interrogation

TOP SECRET

- 25 -

M. But, you mean in the '51 period?

F. In - yes, yes, yes.

M. No - I was talking about the war time period, I mean, there is GORONWY believing- I mean, knowing that GUY had been involved - believing that ANTHONY had been involved and seeing ANTHONY sitting in M.I.5. pretty well at the centre of things.

F. Yes.

M. Well, you could say, I suppose, that GORONWY having realised that all this was wrong and that he should never have become involved in it himself - having broken off himself - his thoughts would then turn to the damage ANTHONY would be doing if he hadn't also broken off, and, if that were so, you would expect him to come out with the whole story during the war, but he didn't.

F. You mean before GUY disappeared?

M. Yes.

F. Ehm -

W. During the war, in 1944.

F. Yes, during the war. I think - what I know of GORONWY, I don't think he did suspect it, I think he'd have had to be pretty sure that ANTHONY was going on before he could have brought himself to, shall we say, denouncing, in that way. I think one of GORONWY's troubles is that, if a policeman is chasing a burglar I think his natural sympathies would be with the burglar - you know, there are quite a lot of people like that and it would have - it would have been <sup>an</sup> enormous effort for him to have - have denounced him. I think he probably would if he'd been sure, but, I think, it would - I don't know. In any case, you see, during those years he was busy and- doing this and doing that, I don't suppose he - he must have hardly seen ANTHONY during the war.

TOP SECRET

/over



TOP SECRET

D.F.  
Interrogation

- 26 -

M. Yes. Well - you can see why the question mark must-

F. Yes! Ehm -

M. - remain - it's ...

F. Yes, yes, yes.

W. GORONWY is the only person who had evidence <sup>that</sup> ~~XX~~ both GUY and ANTHONY were involved pre-war.

F. Er - he had evidence of ANTHONY too? - that I didn't know.

W. Yes.

M. Well, he - yes, he had evidence, I mean - he was told that ANTHONY was by GUY.

W. And, of course, one naturally asks the question why didn't he come forward, you see. I mean, I can understand him not coming forward when he himself was involved but later in the war when, you know, or, after the war - just after the war when it was quite clear that - the damage they could have done and, in fact, they did do.

M. Well, this may be the thing that is on GORONWY's conscience.

W. Ehm.

M. This may be why he had to plan to get rid of it.

F. Yes - ehm - a man of deep deception of course would never have rung me up in - as he did, I mean, he'd have just sat there and if he was asked said-'oh yes, GUY rang MARGY up two days ago-was talking very oddly'.

W. No, the other point that worries me is to whether-even though GORONWY was out of it after 1939- whether GUY didn't approach him for help in 1951 - we know he went to ANTHONY, he went - I mean, he saw ANTHONY directly he came ashore in the boat but that very afternoon he went to see GORONWY and, in fact, he went to see GORONWY before he made any effort to see DONALD, and this - this I find - I mean, GORONWY ~~XXXXXX~~ says that - that he came to talk about this absurd paper, /you know, /over

TOP SECRET



TOP SECRET

D.F.  
Interrogation

- 27 -

you know, about MACARTHURISM, but, this seems an extraordinary thing to do,-

M. ....

W. - and, knowing the stress that he was under all the time - what ANTHONY said about it and so on and so forth.

F. Whether he was keeping up with - you see, when - I remember - we had lunch together - probably it was after he'd been to see GORONWY and out came his paper and he would talk of nothing else the whole time, or, just to mention how tiresome the traffic cops had been and how it's a good thing he was out and he was going to lunch with MICHAEL BERRY - or, going to dine with MICHAEL ~~REDDICK~~ BERRY - but, the burden, the excitement was - as it came out - was all about the- MacARTHUR.

W. Well, you see why - why there must remain doubts?

F. Yes, yes, I do, indeed, ehm - rather difficult - but, who could do enough to help in the case of - of DONALD, I mean, ANTHONY was obviously very well placed to help.

M. And.....

F. But, ehm - how far GORONWY ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ living in Sonning - mostly in Oxford and Birmingham-?

M. Well, let's put it this way- (telephone ring)  
the crisis for getting DONALD out - you would expect him to go to those friends who were <sup>indoctrinated</sup> ~~as it were~~ as it were - who knew the position. Well, the first person he goes to is indoctrinated, ANTHONY, and he tells ANTHONY the whole story - 'DONALD, we've got to get him out'. The next person he goes to, indeed, the same day-

F. - do you know who else he saw and when - have you got his time table for those two-?

M. - I'm afraid it's not complete - no, it's far from complete - I mean, a certain amount has been pieced together. But, there's no reason to suppose that anybody other than - I mean, there's no evidence /that /over



TOP SECRET

D.F.  
Interrogation

- 28 -

that anybody other than ANTHONY was enlisted-

F. Yes, yes, yes.

M. - but, we're bound to look at everybody that he went to see at that time and ask oneself, were they in it at all, because, if they were, then they must have been indoctrinated-?

F. Exactly, yes, yes, yes.

M. - well, as I say, number two on the list was GORONWY.

F. Ehm, yes.

W. And he saw GORONWY before he took the steps of getting hold of DONALD and he was the only other one as far as we know-

F. Yes.

W. - and this is the thing that worries one. I mean, if he'd gone to see GORONWY after he'd contacted DONALD then one could understand it but-

M. I mean, one must imagine that the thoughts of freeing himself were already in his mind, even if he hadn't taken the decision - I mean, coming over on the ship knowing what he was faced with, I mean -

F. He landed in the morning - he saw GORONWY ~~next~~ - ehm- he saw ANTHONY straight away -

W. Yes, ANTHONY met him on the boat.

M. He got a message to ANTHONY and ANTHONY was there to meet him.

W. I mean, he went to the extent of getting a message to him - he telephoned actually from the Queen Mary to ANTHONY to go and see him - and ANTHONY met him off the boat and driving up from Southampton -

M. - GUY told him the whole story.

W. - GUY told him the whole story. Ehm - he then had lunch with ANTHONY at ANTHONY's flat, and, immediately afterwards, up the sticks and went to GORONWY at Sbmng, instead of going to see DONALD-

F. In the Foreign Office?

W. Yes - the next day he went to see DONALD. /over



D.F.  
Interrogation

- 29 -

3852

F. And, of course, there would be no reason why he shouldn't go and see DONALD coming back from the Washington Embassy and going to the American Department.

W. Ehm - and, seeing that he was in a real panic to see ANTHONY, do you see what I mean?

F. Yes, yes.

W. You've got to add the whole thing together.

F. Yes.

W. It makes you think that he went to see GORONWY to enlist GORONWY's aid, maybe GORONWY refused it and - maybe GORONWY and MARGY between them refused it and are denying the story ever since simply because he defected afterwards and they feel, you know, that they could have stopped it if they'd come clean, or, something like that - or, that GUY told them about ~~HE~~ DONALD this time, and-

F. Why did he ring me up? I mean, in the case of-

M. Well, your own explanation was that you were [REDACTED]

F. Yes, yes, which is perfectly- I mean, that's how I took it, but why did he have the urge to-(telephone)

M. Yes, well, - you were asking why he should want to get into touch with the establishment - with officialdom?

F. Yes.

M. Well, what he himself has said and what ANTHONY confirms partly, is that he, GORONWY, was insistent that together they should tell M.I.5 of, as he believed, their joint involvement.

F. Yes, yes.

M. His attitude was 'well, I was enlisted, I was recruited in '38 and I told GUY in '39 that I wasn't going to have any more to do with it - but when he recruited me GUY told me that ANTHONY was already in it!'

F. Yes.

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 MARCH 2022



TOP SECRET

D.F.  
Interrogation

- 30 -

M. And, he went further and said he'd had a conversation with ANTHONY about this in which he believed that ANTHONY was making tacit admission that he, ANTHONY, was in it too, and, therefore, GUY having gone, GORONWY feels that it's important that officialdom should know of their joint involvement.

F. Yes, yes.

M. ANTHONY denies having been involved so that this conversation ~~was~~ that GORONWY had with him - it must have been a complete misunderstanding, he didn't know <sup>if</sup> that/GORONWY was referring to his, ANTHONY's, involvement with the Russians, well - there must have been a misunderstanding because he couldn't <sup>have</sup> ~~admitted~~ admitted involvement with the Russians when in fact he never had been involved. But, GORONWY went on to insist that at any rate his story would have to be told and he wanted ANTHONY to be there while he told it in order that he would - I mean, in referring to ANTHONY he would not be doing it behind ANTHONY's back.

F. Yes, yes.

M. And so, finally, he persuaded ANTHONY to attend from GUY LIDDELL and together they told their story, and, all that makes perfectly good sense.

F. Yes.

M. And, if you like, it's to GORONWY's credit.

F. Yes.

M. On the other hand, I mean, if you - you can always read it the other way and say that GORONWY realised that this was likely to come out, and so, ~~therefore~~ it would be better to get it off his chest before they found out, you see - take it that way.

F. Yes, yes.

W. The two things that stick in my gizzard so to speak over this are firstly, as I say, GUY going /to see  
TOP SECRET  
/over



TOP SECRET

D.F.  
Interrogation

- 31 -

to see GORONWY before he saw DONALD at Sonning and we know he was in a panic with ANTHONY because ANTHONY told us when he came back. That's the first point, and the second point is GORONWY's instantaneous reaction that GUY had gone to Russia after he disappeared.

F. Yes, yes.

W. You see what I mean?

F. Yes, yes, yes - so, the suggestion- something was said to GORONWY-

W. Yes, something was said to GORONWY by GUY - something much more was said to GORONWY than he has told us.

M. Or, alternatively, that GORONWY knew that GUY had continued to work for the Russians after he, GORONWY, had stopped and, therefore, it was perfectly natural to assume that that was where GUY had gone, but, I think-

W. But, if one of your close friends is missing over a week-end you don't automatically jump to the conclusion that he's gone to Russia, do you?-

F. Certainly not- er -

W. - which is what GORONWY did.

F. Yes. Yes, yes. Ehm - I mean, - of course - he made so much of this final conversation on the 'phone with MARGY when he was -

W. Yes, but, MARGY's account of this conversation doesn't lead one to think that it's the sort of - it certainly wouldn't have made me think that GUY had gone to Russia and it didn't make MARGY think so - MARGY thought GUY was odd and might do something silly but not defect and never ..... that anything like that was in the wind.

F. Yes, yes.

M. Do we know, PETER, whether GORONWY did tell MARGY, I mean, pre-'51 - pre the-?

W. He alleges that he did.

M. And he told her about his own- /over



TOP SECRET

D.F.  
Interrogation

- 32 -

W. Well, they - together they said to me that they did.

M. Yes. So, she knew at the time the telephone call was made?

W. Was made, yes.

M. Yes.

W. So, that, you see, MARGY didn't interpret it as that and this is what I don't understand, why GORONWY immediately jumped to the conclusion! If you could persuade GORONWY to tell us and if it is ~~XXXX~~ different it would be very useful!

F. Ehm.

M. Has GORONWY told you that we've been in touch with them recently?

F. Yes, he has, ehm.

W. We assumed that he would. (laughter).

F. Yes, yes, he was - ehm -

M. How does he feel about it now, is he happier?

F. Well, er - unhappy.

M. Unhappy?

F. Unhappy, yes, unhappy - there's this nasty thing going on and on and on and on and on - you see, I could, if I got the occasion to talk to him, it would be very much easier if you had no objection to my saying that you've been talking to me.

M. Well, I can't see any reason why you shouldn't say that.

F. That would be - I mean, it would be perfectly natural that you should, you see, I mean, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ <sup>he asked me</sup> - 'have the people been coming and talking to you' and I said 'no, I've said my piece as far as I could years and years and years ago' - but, if I could tell him that the, you see, that is a reason why I <sup>have them</sup> could / away from the family and all that sort of thing. And, MARGY was in on it to some extent?

M. Yes.

F. So, I could have them both round? /over



D.F.  
Interrogation

TOP SECRET

- 33 -

W. Yes.

D. And see what happens - yes.

W. Well, I think, these are the two sort of fundamental points of doubt. The first thing is-why did GUY go and see GORONWY immediately after coming ashore? And, secondly, why did GORONWY come to the immediately conclusion that he'd gone to Russia?

M. I think GORONWY in fact knows that those are the two things-

W. I mean, he ought to know because I've talked round and round this with him. (laughter)

F. You see, there is one factor, I think- that is of sort of importance that the only home that GUY was friendly with, was really friendly with, was the REES's. I can't think of any other married couple that he was on any terms like that with.

M. Ehm. He was very fond of MARGY, wasn't he?

F. Very fond of MARGY - very fond of the small children. The other couples he frequented, I am sure, it wasn't nearly as intimate as that.

W. Yes, I'm sure that's right.

F. I mean, that is a sort of - one home to go to when you're feeling unhappy - that would be- er -

W. No - I think - if only the first one had happened ie- he'd rushed down before seeing DONALD to see GORONWY and MARGY, it would be a question mark but it wouldn't be such a bit question mark - but, if you take it in conjunction with GORONWY's absolute certainty that he'd gone to Russia on the Tuesday morning-?

F. Well, you see, that - one factor that might go for that is this curious sensitive antenna that GORONWY has - he's one of the two or three men I know with absolutely remarkable antenna for sort of feeling and smelling things - I think, he would- he would smell something there far quicker than- and, possibly, surer/than /over



D.F.  
Interrogation

TOP SECRET

- 34 -

than anybody else.

W.

Ehm.

TOP SECRET



TOP SECRET  
EXTRACT

3854

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2020

.....  
Goronwy REES

[redacted] knew him very well, both before the war and after but he dropped him after the "People's" articles when REES was in Wales. [redacted] considered those articles disgraceful and an unjustifiable attack by REES on his friends, particularly BLUNT. REES is a fundamentally weak man and vulnerable on many scores.

.....

4. I find it very difficult to sum up [redacted] I found him glib and apparently very shallow in his estimates of people. I find this odd taking into account [redacted]

S Form 81b

TOP SECRET

/reputation



TOP SECRET

reputation in the Civil Service. I suspect that [redacted] has been queer and I suspect also that he would not tell us if one of his close friends was involved. [redacted] commented that after BURGESS went he discussed with his friends what their attitude should be. They decided that the best thing was to lie low and say nothing. I find some of his statements so naive as to be unbelievable. For instance the statement that BLUNT was not Left Wing at Cambridge and that it was inconceivable that BLUNT could be a spy.

.....

TOP SECRET

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2020



**SECRET**

(306) Wt.11364/7492. 200M. 1/63. K.C.N. Gp 616/1.

S. Form 81/rev. 11.62

**EXTRACT**Extract for File No.: PF.604,583 Name: REESOriginal in File No.: PF.604,583 Supp. A. Vol.: 10 Serial: 562 Receipt Date: 29.4.65Original from: T/C Under Ref.: 4511 Dated: 28.4.65Extracted on: 30.4.65 by: CMK Section: D.1/Inv.Ext. from T/C on REES Tel. No. WES 1316 - former contact of BURGESS

.....

I/C from

DANIEL explained that MARGY and REES were in OXFORD for the night.

[ ] said he had just got back and was longing to see them. He would give them a call. He sent them his best love.  
22.01.

\*If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner.

**SECRET**

THIS IS A COPY  
 ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
 IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
 ACT 1958 *October 2020*



383a.

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958.



SECRET

(306) Wt.11364/7492. 200M. 1/63. K.C.N. Gp.616/1.

S. Form 81/rev. 11.62

## EXTRACT

382a

Extract for File No.: PF.604.583 Name: REES

Original File No.: PF.604.583 Supp. A. Vol.: 10 Serial: 560 Receipt Date: 27.4.65

Original from: T/C Under Ref.: 4511 Dated: 27.4.65

Extracted on: 28.4.65 by: CMK Section: D.1/Inv.

Ext. from T/C on REES - former contact of BURGESS

I/C for MARGY from DIANA TRILLING - American accent. DIANA invited MARGY and REES to OXFORD to-morrow for dinner and to stay overnight. They had NORMAN MAILER?? or MATHER?? and his wife, BEVERLEY visiting them and staying the night. They were to be eight to dinner - the TRILLINGS, NORMAN and BEVERLEY, IRIS MURDOCH and JOHN BAILEY, and MARGY and REES. MARGY said they would love to come, but she was not sure about staying the night. DIANA hoped she could do this because more people were coming in at 21.30. MARGY was to let DIANA know this evening. She knew that REES was longing to meet MAILER or MATHER. Only yesterday, he had remarked that he knew that he was to be in OXFORD, and he did hope that DIANA would let him meet him. Lengthy domestic chatter followed. MARGY said they had had a marvellous time in YORKSHIRE and were all feeling much better. THOMAS was returning to WESTMINSTER. DANIEL was having a tutor and going to the TAVISTOCK 3 times a week.

SECRET

If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner.



S. Form 81B 5m 10.64

SECRET

## EXTRACT

381a

Extract for File No.: PF 604,583 Name: Goronwy REES  
 Original in File No.: PF 604,583 Supp A Vol.: 10 Serial: 559 Receipt Date: 12.4.65.  
 Original from: T/C Under Ref.: 4511 Dated: 9.4.65.  
 Extracted on: 13.4.65. by: JG Section: D.1/Inv.

Ext. from T/C on WES 1316, REES - former contact of BURGESS

.....  
 O/G REES to MARKS & SPENCER. - SEMOGGY (ph).  
 REES gave his address in YORKSHIRE. ASHBERRY FARM,  
 DIEVAULX, NR. HELMSLEY. REES said he would be there  
 until the 26th.  
 DISTANT was to take 2 days off and read REES's book  
 right through.  
 15.25.

I/C for REES from DAVID HYAM.  
 Conversation about the contract with WEIDENFELD.  
 DISTANT had seen him to-day and he - WEIDENFELD - had  
 to finalize with HARPERS - this was important because  
 of the first payment of £500. A reply from HARPERS should  
 be received next week and then REES should get the  
 money quite quickly. HYAM would go ahead with drawing  
 up the contract. Payment was to be made as follows:  
 £500 at once. £1000 at the end of SEPTEMBER, followed  
 by £1000 every 6 months inclusive, until delivery. This  
 would amount to £5,500 in all.  
 REES said he trusted DISTANT completely to do what he  
 considered best.  
 15.34.

This is Jan de SOLOGGY  
 of the Economic  
 Information  
 Dept.

To show  
 Economy  
 is to give  
 an  
 advantage  
 in his  
 book in  
 1969

.....  
 O/G REES to HEATHER BEARSTED at EDGEHILL 242.  
 He was afraid he must have been very drunk last evening!  
 HEATHER said he was not, certainly not when she left.  
 REES then went on: 'Thank you very much indeed for one  
 thing. That was one thing I wanted to say.'  
 HEATHER replied: 'Oh, you are sweet! Well it's a great,  
 great pleasure.'

.....  
 O/G REES to LUCY.  
 They spoke about DANIEL. The TAVISTOCK people said he  
 would have to be under a psychiatrist for 3 years. This  
 ruled out OXFORD.  
 REES unburdened himself about the troubles they had been  
 having lately with the boys. It really had been terrible,  
 he said.  
 LUCY was probably REES's favourite child.  
 16.19.

SECRET



SECRET

S. Form 81B 5m 10.64

## EXTRACT

Extract for File No. : ..... Name: .....

Original in File No. : \* ..... Vol. : ..... Serial : ..... Receipt Date : .....

Original from : ..... Under Ref. : ..... Dated : .....

Extracted on : ..... by : ..... Section : .....

- 2 -

.....

O/G REES to FLANAGAN.

REES suggested dining together to-night. DISTANT thought this a very good idea. He was surprised to hear REES, thinking that he was away.

REES said the others were in YORKSHIRE.

DISTANT might have to entertain a young american who had written to him. He was supposed to have phoned DISTANT this morning, but had not. DISTANT suggested that REES came round to him for a drink. REES said he would very much rather have DISTANT come to him.

It was left that DISTANT came to REES at 19.40, unless he rang to the contrary. They were to dine at REES's Middle Eastern restaurant 'round the corner.' REES was going past there now and was to ask if they minded dogs in the restaurant. DISTANT would have to bring DORMOUSE with him. He was very well behaved, he said! REES said he knew that DORMOUSE's behaviour was impeccable! 17.02.

\*If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

.....

O/G REES to MARGY.

Domestic chatter. REES said he would catch the train at 14.00 to-morrow arriving YORK at 17.05.

The plumber was coming to-morrow morning.

REES said he was now going to write 10 letters! 18.01.

SECRET



**SECRET**

M. A. HAWKINS,  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPT., (through A.2.A.)  
G.P.O.

Box 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
London, S.W.1

380a

Please \* Suspend  
Re-impose

T.C. No.: .....  
(Not H.O.W. No.)

XXXXXXXXXX  
\* { Temporarily  
Indefinitely  
Permanently (H.O.W. being retained) }  
XXXXXXXXXX

12.4.65. from ..... to .....  
(if known) 26.4.65.

ate 12th April 1965 Section D.1/Inv.

Signature .....

E. McBarnet

Copy to A.2.A.  
Copy to file No.: PP.604,583

(\* Delete as necessary)

(Use this Form for both carbon copies).

Form 306 rev 2.63/2m 6.63

12/85  
23/4/05  
21/04/65



S. Form 81/rev. 11.62

(306) Wt.11364/7492. 200M. 1/63. K.C.N. Gp.616/1.

**SECRET**  
**EXTRACT**

Extract for File No.: PF 604,583 Name: Goronwy REES

Original in File No.: PF 604,583 Supp A Vol.: 10 Serial: 551 Receipt Date: 2.4.65.

Original from: T/C Under Ref.: 4511 Dated: 1.4.65.

Extracted on: 5.4.65. by: JG Section: D.1/Inv

Ext. from T/C on REES - former contact of BURGESS

MARGY told SUSAN about all the troubles with the boys. DANIEL had been taken away from school and was now receiving treatment from a psychiatrist, etc. She remarked that she thought the boys (the twins) had 'had too much to take one way and another!'

MARGY said the saving grace had been REES, who was 'incredibly sane and sober and efficient.' SUSAN would know what he was like normally, but lately, he had seemed to be 'out of context altogether!'

23.11.

**SECRET**

\*If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner.



**TOP SECRET**

Reference.....

378<sup>a</sup>Note for File

On Saturday March 27th the Duty Officer rang me up to say that Mrs. REES had been trying to get hold of me. I afterwards learnt that she had also tried on the previous Friday evening. I rang her at her London flat. She said that there were a couple of things that she wished to tell me about, and that they were going away to Yorkshire at the end of next week, and could I see her before then? I explained that I was going to Wales for three days' holiday on Saturday. After some discussion we agreed to meet at their flat at 4 o'clock on Sunday 28th March. When I arrived I was taken out on to the balcony, the weather being fine and warm. REES himself had obviously drunk a lot at lunch time and was not there the whole of the interview. The conversation was friendly and I think Mrs. REES was genuinely trying to help. It was divided into two parts, the first hour really only going over the old ground and adding new details.

2. During this hour the following subjects were discussed.

i. Mrs. REES said that she was under the impression that we had never taken "The Society" in Cambridge seriously. I did not reveal any knowledge of this organisation, in the hope that she would tell me what she had learnt from Guy BURGESS. She said that it was a very secret Cambridge society which elected twelve of the most outstanding undergraduates each year as members, and that Guy had told her that during the thirties it had become very political. In Guy BURGESS' time, apart from Guy himself, Anthony BLUNT, Denis PROCTOR, Eddie PLAYFAIR and Victor ROTHSCHILD had all been members. There was also a very sinister character whom Guy seemed to respect, called Alan HODGKIN, who is the husband of Dorothy HODGKIN, the Nobel Prize winner. Guy certainly gave her the impression that in his day the Society (i.e. The Apostles) was Communist and Marxist. She also mentioned Tommy HARRIS, but was not certain whether he was an Apostle or not.

ii. She said that in 1947/48 there was a sinister friend of Guy BURGESS' who was known as "the Dane", she could not remember his name. She thought that he had worked for S.O.E. during the war and she described him as a very "queer thug". He had suddenly disappeared. She thought that he was possibly only a boy-friend of Guy's, but because of the suspected S.O.E. connection might have been more. Referring to "the man in the Reform Club" mentioned in paragraph 7 of the previous note in this file, she thought that it might have been somebody called Sir Charles TAYLOR.

iii. On the subject of difficulties created for REES in the literary world since his articles in "The People", she said that the reviews in the "New Statesman" and "Spectator" had killed his last book. She knew that Angus WILSON had done the review in "The Spectator" and that he was a close friend of Stuart HAMPSHIRE's.

**GUARD**

Mrs.../

**TOP SECRET**



**TOP SECRET**

Reference.....

- 2 -

Mrs. REES went on to say that she could not understand what was going on in the "Daily Telegraph". She said that Donald McCLOCHLAN of the "Telegraph" had arranged with REES' agent for a series of articles, which would have been very profitable to REES. REES wrote these and the first two were passed by the editor for publication. Then quite suddenly they were turned down, she thought by the top at the "Daily Telegraph". I said that this was not surprising in view of the fact that Michael BERRY was a close friend of Guy BURGESS.

L.448/206

iv. During this part of the interview there was considerable repetition of what appears in the previous note on this file, and I have not recorded it again.

3. After an hour's talk it became quite clear that Mrs. REES had something on her mind. At this point REES, who had joined us, went out to get himself a drink (the time being between 4.30 and 5 in the afternoon). He came back with a whisky which must have been practically neat. Mrs. REES opened this part of the interview by saying that there was more to tell us about the letter that Stuart HAMPSHIRE had written to REES at the time of "The People" articles in 1956. This letter had been a six page letter (it had been destroyed at the time), the first three pages of which were a very violent attack on REES for betraying Anthony BLUNT, and there could be no shadow of doubt from the text of the letter that either HAMPSHIRE knew that Anthony BLUNT was a spy or was 99% certain. There was no suggestion in these three pages that Anthony BLUNT was innocent. She thought this was very significant and was convinced that HAMPSHIRE either knew all about BLUNT's activities or was engaged in them himself. She said that the latter part of the letter was an equally unpleasant tirade, but it had no significance to any particular individual. Mrs. REES tried to find out whether we had interviewed HAMPSHIRE but I gave her no indication. She talked at length about HAMPSHIRE, emphasising what a close friend he had been of theirs, but that his closest friend had undoubtedly been Anthony BLUNT, and that she thought that the BLUNT-HAMPSHIRE relationship must have started as a queer one. REES at this point interjected to say that he was sure that HAMPSHIRE was a queer.

4. After the discussion on HAMPSHIRE, Mrs. REES reverted to minor matters but clearly had more to say. During this time, however, she mentioned that they knew Jeremy WOLFENDEN well and that he was "a raging queer" and was anti-Establishment in every possible way. She said this was a sad case of the son trying to be everything that his father disliked. REES interjected to say that he thought that Jeremy WOLFENDEN was very vulnerable, and he could not believe that the Russians had not had a go at him, particularly during his visits to Moscow.

5. It became quite clear that the REES were very reluctant to open the second topic they wished to discuss with me, and as time was getting on I finally said to Mrs. REES that she had a second point she wished to discuss, what was it? She then said that it concerned David FOOTMAN. She said that David FOOTMAN was probably their closest friend and had been a very good friend down the years. She said, however, that both she and REES were convinced that he had been very deeply involved and might still be. REES said that he had always

considered.../

Code 18-75

**TOP SECRET**



**TOP SECRET**

Reference.....

- 3 -

PF 604, 584

considered David FOOTMAN to be a much more important spy than PHILBY, and he asked me whether FOOTMAN had confessed. I hedged this point, giving him no indication either way. He then said that if he had not, he thought it would be very difficult to get him to talk. He suggested that if he talked freely about my interviews with them (the REES) with David, this might help. I made no comment. Mrs. REES then said that they were extremely worried about David FOOTMAN as he had begun to deteriorate seriously since the middle of last summer. This is why they thought he might have confessed. They said that they were worried that he might be going to defect, because he was extremely loyal to his friends and Bill DEAKIN had looked after him very well in recent years, and they were sure that FOOTMAN would be concerned about upsetting DEAKIN and bringing disrepute to St. Anthony's. I asked them how urgent they thought the crisis might be. They said that if he had not gone while he was away at the moment, and they had no indication that he had, there would appear to be no immediate urgency. I pointed out to them that there was nothing we could do to stop him going if he wished to. They saw this, and agreed that it was a very good thing that we could not stop him. After talking about FOOTMAN, REES seemed to be more relieved, but emotionally upset. I decided that it was best to close the interview at this point, which I did. Mrs. REES told me on the way out that they were going to Yorkshire at the end of this week for three weeks and could be got at Helmsley 430. I said that I saw no reason why we should need to get in touch with them.

Pls R. Wright

D.3.

Peter M. Wright

2.4.65

Copy sent to [redacted] on 2.4.65.

**TOP SECRET**

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 MARCH 20 22



## Reference.....

TAYLOR, Sir Charles (Stuart) Kt.,  
 1954; T.D.; M.A. Cantab; D.L. (Sussex); MP (C) Eastbourne  
 since March, 1935; b.10 April, 1910; s. of Alfred George  
 and Mary TAYLOR; m. 1936. Constance Ada SHOTTER; three  
 s. one d. Educ. Epsom College, Trinity College, Cambridge.  
 Hons. Degree Law Tripos; Chairman of Grosvenor House (Park  
 Lane) Ltd; Joing Managing Dir. Cow and Gate Ltd.; a  
 Managing Dir. Unigate Ltd.; Director: Onyx Property  
 Investment Co. Ltd.; Trust Houses Ltd. and other cos.;  
 Pres. Residential Hotels Association of Gt. Britain until  
 1948 and Vice-Chmn of Coun. of Brit. Hotels and Restaurants  
 Association until 1951; Vice-President Building Societies  
 Association; member of Council of British Travel and Holidays  
 Assoc.; joined T.A. 1937 (Royal Artillery), Capt. August,  
 1939; D.A.A.G. and Temp Major Jan. 1941; attended Staff  
 College, June, 1941(war course) graduated s.c. Serving  
 Brother, Order of St. John; Recreations: yachting (rep.  
 Gt. Britain v. USA and Old World v. New World in six-metre  
 yacht races, 1955) shooting, golf, fishing, Address:  
 Ratton Wood, Willingdon, Sussex; 4, Reeves House, Reeves  
 Mews, W.1. T. Grosvenor 3730. Clubs: Carlton, Royal  
 Thames Yacht, 1900, International Sportsmen's; Travellers'  
 (Paris).



PF.604,583

377a

TOP SECRET

Note of Interview with Mr. and Mrs.  
Goronwy REES

At the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. REES, Messrs. Peter Wright and [redacted] conducted an interview at 18c, Prince of Wales Terrace, W.8., on Friday, 26th March, 1965 beginning at 2-15 p.m.

2. Messrs. Wright and [redacted] were received with unconcealed hostility, and it soon became apparent that Mrs. REES was determined to make them feel as uncomfortable as she could, possibly in the hope that she would scare them off. As the interview progressed, however, her hostility decreased and with it, so did her husband's. It was obvious that her initial attitude had been based upon a somewhat distorted version of the earlier interview of REES, whose recollections are likely to have been distorted as much by alcohol as by indignation. Mrs. REES, it may be guessed, now began to appreciate the truth of the matter.

3. The REES' made much play at the beginning of the interview, of the alleged enormity of the suggestion that REES himself, at the time of the disappearance of BURGESS and MACLEAN, had knowingly concealed his knowledge of BURGESS' pre-War espionage from MI5 for a period of 10 days. Both he and his wife insisted that this was not true, and that he had come forward after a lapse of only 48 hours. As the interview progressed, however, Mrs. REES began to have her doubts. She had first been inclined to suggest that the MI5 officers who saw REES in 1951 must have cooked the records, but near the end of the interview she quite suddenly decided that she and Goronwy must have been wrong about the dates, and that the MI5 account was correct after all. Although the general tenor of the interview doubtless played its part in converting Mrs. REES she was probably more influenced by the realisation that if only 48 hours had elapsed between Goronwy REES contacting David FOOTMAN, and his subsequent visit to MI5 in the company of Anthony BLUNT, he would have had no reason to complain; yet she was certain that at the time he had been greatly concerned at the delay. Therefore, she was now inclined to accept the fact that there had in practice been an interval of ten days between Guy's defection and the MI5 interview. It had, of course, been left to Anthony BLUNT to make the arrangements.

4. At an early stage in the interview Mrs. REES said that Goronwy's life had been blighted ever since he had published his series of articles about BURGESS in 'The People' in 1956. She felt sure that persons in authority - and she did not mean MI5 - had intervened with employers and others to bar Goronwy's progress. It seemed that no enterprise of his could be successful any more. For example, he was no longer acceptable to the BBC. There had been a time when he appeared regularly in a brains trust programme run by Catherine DOVE (wife of John FREEMAN who is now High Commissioner in India) but this work had been suddenly terminated without any official explanation. BBC director Grace WYNNDHAM GOLDIE had afterwards confided that she had seen Goronwy's BBC file, which she described as "very black". Mrs. REES now suggested that it might repay us to find out who was responsible. Mrs. REES could not remember the precise year, but she knew it was when they were at Leigh. (This would be 1957 or 1958.)

5. The articles in 'The People' had provoked some of REES' friends into bitter recriminations. From Stuart HAMPSHIRE he had received a violent and hysterical letter - some 7 or 8 pages of passion, accusing him of being a traitor to his friends and so on. From Maurice BOWRA, REES received a less violent letter, accusing him of being a Judas. His old friend Rosamund LEHMANN had also turned against him. It could be that their

PF. 76,719

/reactions . . .

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2020

TOP SECRET

GUARD



TOP SECRET

- 2 -

GUARD

reactions stemmed from fear of discovery in consequence of what REES had divulged in his articles.

GUARD

6. Mrs. REES went on to say that another person she regarded with deep suspicion was Gerald HAMILTON of the "Sunday Times". Goronwy had once worked for that paper, from which he received a large retainer, but almost as soon as Gerald HAMILTON took over, his services were dispensed with. His agent told him that it was because Gerald HAMILTON hated him, although he did not know why. HAMILTON had since become Editor-in-Chief of the Camrose Group of newspapers.

7. In searching her memory for others she regarded with suspicion, Mrs. REES recalled that Guy BURGESS habitually met a man in the Reform Club whose name she did not know, but whom she described as "biggish, pompous, paunchy, some 5 or 10 years older than Guy". He looked rather like Derek VERSCHOYLE. She might well recognise him if she saw his photograph. Mrs. REES said that Guy never introduced this man to other people, and she had the distinct impression that he was in some way Guy's superior since the latter treated him with great deference and respect - characteristics normally lacking in Guy.

8. At his earlier interview with Messrs. Wright and REES had tried to remember the name of a woman from MI5 who had come to a REES' house party after BURGESS' disappearance, in the company of David FOOTMAN. He said that Mrs. REES had regarded the woman with suspicion. Mrs. REES now said that she had been trying to remember the woman's name, but without success.

9. At this point, Goronwy REES excused himself and left us alone with Mrs. REES, who in reply to a question, said that she had never entertained any suspicions of Guy BURGESS before Guy defected to Russia with MACLEAN. She well recalled the day of Guy's return from America, when he came at once to see them at Sonning. He brought American jeans for the children and he had with him a paper he had written about American policies in the Far East, of which he was inordinately proud and for which he was seeking support in the Foreign Office. Mrs. REES recalled that Guy had asked Goronwy to read the paper, expecting to secure the latter's approval. Instead, a tremendous row had developed. It was no doubt as a result of this that Guy failed to raise the question of his imminent defection, if indeed it had ever been his object to do so.

10. Concerning the telephone conversation which she had with Guy BURGESS' hysterical friend Jacky after the former's disappearance, she remembered telephoning Goronwy on the Sunday at All Souls to tell him about it. Goronwy had required her to repeat exactly what Jacky had said and had concluded that BURGESS must certainly have fled to Russia. She remembered saying that this could not be so, as BURGESS could be of no possible use to the Russians. Goronwy had then acted in the way we already knew, and it was the subsequent delay between his having told David FOOTMAN and MI5 inviting him to an interview that had agitated him so much. When Anthony BLUNT came to Sonning at Goronwy's urgent request, he was shaking like a leaf, but he gave no inkling that he was aware that Guy BURGESS had gone to Russia. Anthony BLUNT did his best to dissuade Goronwy from his intention to tell MI5 all he knew about <sup>his</sup> knowledge of Guy, but finally agreed.

11. On being asked to try to remember the names of the others whom they looked on with suspicion in connection with BURGESS' defection,

/Mr. . . .

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2020

TOP SECRET



TOP SECRET

- 3 -

377a

Mr. and Mrs. REES referred to Chapter XIII of Goronwy's draft book about BURGESS, on pages 26 and 37 of which were described the various personalities who attended the party which Guy BURGESS had given at his flat before his departure for Washington. Many of these must, in the circumstances, be regarded with suspicion. They included:-

Hector McNEIL (Mrs. REES said he was very close to BURGESS)

Kenneth YOUNGER RS

David FOOTMAN PF 604,589

Guy LIDDELL RS

Anthony BLUNT PF 604,582

PF 604,854

James POPE-HENNESSEY (of whom Mrs. REES said he was a person open to blackmail)

PF 48,846

FUTLITZ

PF 604,592

12. Next, the name Peter POLLOCK came to Mrs. REES' mind, and she remarked that he must know a good deal about Guy BURGESS. This in turn reminded REES that Peter was another who had sent him a very violent letter as a result of the articles in 'The People'.

13. Goronwy REES referred to a statement he had made when he was interviewed earlier, to the effect that he had never known Guy BURGESS to be hard up for money. He now wished to say that he could remember one occasion, around six months or a year before BURGESS went to the USA, when the latter had been hard-pressed for money and had borrowed a £100 from a friend of REES' called Arthur\* who had since died. BURGESS gave no special reason for needing the money, and REES thought it had been repaid. Mrs. REES recalled that Peter POLLOCK was a man who seemed to be involved in financial affairs a great deal with Guy BURGESS. For instance, she could recollect an evening at Covent Garden in the company of Peter, Guy and James POPE-HENNESSEY during which some sort of complex financial arrangements were discussed. Peter often appeared to hand money over to Guy, but Mrs. REES did not know what arrangement existed between them.

\* pres. DENNIS

14. Mrs. REES then told with relish the story of an involvement with the Russians some two years ago in the Winter of 1963 at the time when London was submerged in a pall of dense fog for about a week. It appeared that a party of Soviet playwrights were visiting the UK, and had been confined to London because of the fog. The REES' had attended a party given for the Russians by the Anglo-Soviet Friendship Society, where the young daughter of one of the Russian writers had expressed her wish to meet English girls of her own age. Mrs. REES at once extended an invitation to come to her house to meet her daughters. This was accepted by the girl and her father, whose names escaped her. On the appointed day, Mrs. REES went round to the Russians' hotel in Southampton Row (she could not remember the name) to collect her guests. She announced herself at the reception desk and said she had come to call for the Russian and his daughter, but was told that there were no such people in the hotel. She countered by saying that they were members of the visiting group, and was informed that the group had left the same day. After various comings and goings and consultations between two members of the hotel staff in a foreign language which Mrs. REES assumed to be Russian, she was handed a note written in English in a quavering hand, which said that the Russian and his daughter were very sorry that they were unable to keep their appointment as the group had suddenly been called back to Russia. Mrs. REES remarked to the receptionist that it was odd that the note should be in English, as she knew that her Russian friend could not speak that language. She then began to feel slightly alarmed, and forthwith returned home to her husband. When he heard her story he thought it would be

/fun . .

TOP SECRET



TOP SECRET

- 4 -

377a

fun to telephone the hotel and make enquiries about the Russians in the name of Scotland Yard, expressing concern for their welfare. He did this, and the hotel people sounded panic-stricken. Mrs. REES and her husband seemed to regard the whole affair as a tremendous joke.

15. Goronwy REES, as the interview drew to a close, sought and was given an assurance that his friends were not under a shadow because of any suspicions which might attach to him. Mrs. REES for her part undertook to try to remember the identities of all those who had become antagonistic towards her husband as a result of 'The People' articles. She said she would make out a list and pass it to Mr. Wright. Mr. REES remarked that one day he would put pen to paper again about the BURGESS affair, whereupon Mrs. REES said firmly: "Over my dead body".

16. The interview ended about 4-45 p.m. on a friendly note.

2nd April, 1965.

Copy sent to [redacted] on 2.4.65.

TOP SECRET

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 MARCH 2022



